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THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20 1995

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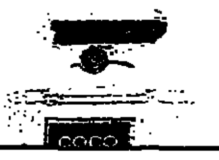

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13 Tories defy party whips

Fishing rebels inflict defeat by two votes

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Government suffered an embarrassing blow last night when Tory MPs combined with Labour to defeat it over the European fisheries policy.

In spite of a frantic whipping exercise, John Major's fragile parliamentary position was vividly exposed as MPs representing fishing communities, Euro-sceptics and most opposition members lined up against him.

With more than a dozen Conservatives rebelling, the Government lost by two votes in its most embarrassing defeat since the revolt over VAT on fuel a year ago.

The Tories were protesting at the way the common fisheries policy had damaged the British industry and warning the Government that it must win better quotas in negotiations beginning tomorrow. They were also opposing moves to allow Spanish boats into traditional British waters from next year.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government would give "due weight" to what had happened in the debate and promised that it would "vigorously represent" UK interests in the Brussels negotiations.

Although the defeat was on a technical motion and has no immediate impact, it was the last result Mr Major needed at the end of yet another dismal year for the Tories.

Tony Blair said the Government was unravelling and declared: "It is unable to lead. It is increasingly unable to represent Britain. It is increasingly unable to govern. The parliamentary year is ending as it began: in incompetence, division and chaos." The idea that the Government could limp on for another 16 months was becoming more and more unsustainable.

Labour had mounted an impressive operation to inflict a final defeat on the Government before the Commons rises today for the Christmas recess. Members were called back from abroad and several sick MPs were brought to the House. Two were "nodded through" because they were too ill to walk through the division lobbies.

The Government had a majority of only eight against a Labour amendment calling for reforms to the fisheries policy, before being defeated on its own motion taking note of recent developments in the policy.

The defeat came in spite of attempts to buy off Tory MPs in fishing constituencies by reversing some £12 million cuts in grants to harbours announced in the Budget last month. Ministers also announced that the Spanish Government would pay £100,000 compensation to British fishermen whose nets were destroyed in the "tuna wars" last year.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary who will put the British case in Brussels, had tried to head off the revolt by telling Tories that they risked compromising the respect they had earned among fishermen by lining up with Labour, whom he dubbed a "bunch of sellout merchants".

Those calling for withdrawal from the common fisheries policy should consider carefully the practicalities and costs of that action, he said. Scrapping the policy would be a "monumental and probably impossible task", needing unanimity among EU states which "could only be bought at a huge price".

Seventeen Tories had earlier signed an amendment calling for a 200-mile exclusion zone around the UK, and for Britain to leave the policy.

Mr Forsyth alleged that Labour would "sail under a white flag" in the EU, but the Government would always fight for the right of British fishermen to fish around UK shores, consistent with maintaining stocks. "Let this House send out the clearest signal that we are united in our determination not just to get the best deal on quotas, but to achieve a long-term solution which offers this vital industry the security it deserves."

But David Porter, MP for Waveney, Suffolk, described Mr Forsyth's speech as "Orwellian", saying: "He was claiming the success of the CFP which will choke most of the fishermen of Lowestoft."

Gavin Strang, Labour's fisheries spokesman, said the fisheries policy was fundamentally flawed. Its priority must be the conservation of stocks and that priority was not being met; too many boats were chasing too few fish.

He added: "The UK Government must take its share of the blame here. Their recalcitrance over decommissioning and the consequent failure to reduce pressure on stocks will further hinder the chances of matching fishing effort with fish stocks."

THE REBELS

The Conservatives William Cash, MP for Stafford, and Michael Carttiss (Great Yarmouth) voted against the Government, while John Wilkinson, Richard Shepherd, Christopher Gill, Teresa Gorman, Tony Marlow, Sir Teddy Taylor, David Wilshire, Peter Thurnham, Rupert Allason, David Porter and Hugh Dykes abstained.

All seven Ulster Unionists who attended the debate voted against the Government.

Fishing debate, page 8

David Ashby wept after the verdict. "Just leave me" he said as he brushed aside the consolations of his wife Sylvana, the main witness against him

Tories seek to save MP from bankruptcy after £500,000 defeat in libel action

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL, KATHRYN KNIGHT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SENIOR Conservatives last night rallied round to save David Ashby from financial ruin as he faced a £500,000 bill for a failed libel action in which he was branded a lying, hypocritical homosexual.

A rescue fund could prove vital for the Government, since any MP made bankrupt has to stand down. The Conservatives would almost certainly lose the resultant by-election — Mr Ashby held his Leicestershire North-West seat by only 979 votes in 1992 — and that could leave John Major with a Commons majority of one.

The costs of Mr Ashby's action against *The Sunday Times* astonished many at Westminster, but there was immediate confidence that the party's grandees would be able to call on prosperous contacts for help — even though the amount involved is huge compared with previous rescue operations.

Mr Ashby, a former Name who suffered substantial losses at Lloyd's, had sought damages over an article in January last year alleging that he shared a double bed with another man during a holiday in Goa.

But the jury found against him in a majority decision after five hours' deliberations and he put his head in his hands and wept when the verdict was announced. His estranged wife Silvana, who gave evidence for *The Sunday Times* during the four-week hearing, crossed the court to comfort him. But as she put her arm round him and kissed the back of his neck, he told her: "Just leave me."

He was given a police escort as he left the High Court for his Temple chambers after issuing a statement saying: "I am deeply disappointed by the decision of the court today. I am very grateful for the kind support of my constituents during what has been a most traumatic ordeal."

He then went to the Commons where he was cheered by MPs on both sides of the House as he rose to ask the Prime Minister a question. He thanked the Speaker and sat down, looking bleak, for a few minutes before leaving the chamber.

Mr Ashby is now expected to have a few days' holiday before returning to his constituency home in Ravenstone, Leicestershire, where he will meet local party officials.

Clifford McKee, the constituency chairman, said: "It was a great shock to find out he'd lost and a great sadness, too. I think most of us were surprised at the jury's decision but I think he was brave to take the action. We are not in the business of making instant decisions. I expect to see Mr Ashby next week to discuss his future, and after that we will have a meeting with the constituency executives who will make a final decision."

Asked whether Mr Ashby had considered that his career might be at risk if he lost, Mr McKee said: "In his mind there was no question of losing, so everything was predicated on winning."

Lord Crawshaw, the association president, said he expected to meet Mr Ashby and other party members in the new year to consider who should be the candidate for the general election, adding: "I would not advise that the matter should be rushed."

Mr Ashby, a 55-year-old barrister, had claimed that the *Sunday Times* article alleged that he was a homosexual who had misled his wife about his sexuality; that he had lied to the public about having an affair with Ciaran Kilduff, an Irish doctor with whom he admitted sharing a double bed in France; and that he was a

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Wife's love, page 3

JUST A SMALL ONE.

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

Red Cross in appeal for Afghanistan

BY MICHAEL DYNES

THE British Red Cross today launched an emergency appeal for Afghanistan, whose 17 million people are facing a humanitarian catastrophe after 16 years of invasion and unrelenting civil war.

An estimated 85 per cent of the capital, Kabul, has been reduced to rubble after devastating clashes between government forces and the radical Taleban militia. Most of Kabul is without electricity and food is scarce.

Rain of destruction, page 12
Leading article, page 17

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Bottomley gives regulator of lottery a second chance

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER DAVIS is to keep his job as regulator of the National Lottery but was yesterday sternly rebuked by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, for accepting free flights from a company linked to Camelot.

Mrs Bottomley ended more than a week of speculation about Mr Davis's future by telling him that she still had confidence in him, despite his admission of close contacts with the lottery operator.

Before making the decision, she demanded an assurance from Mr Davis that there would be no further damaging revelations about his contacts with Camelot. She also told him during a 20-minute meeting that he was unwise to accept flights from GTech, the American firm with a 22 per cent stake in Camelot.

The decision came 48 hours after senior figures in Mrs Bottomley's department told journalists to expect his dismissal. Mrs Bottomley's colleagues denied that she had been deterred from dismissing Mr Davis by the cost of paying off his five-year contract on a salary of £84,000.

Mrs Bottomley wrote to Mr Davis: "You retain my confidence ... there is not, and never has been, any doubt about your integrity." However, she added: "I do not think your acceptance of the flights was wise in the context of your role as regulator of the lottery."

Mrs Bottomley made it clear that the decision had been taken after his assurance "that there are no other issues which may come to light subsequently which could affect my decision in this matter". Mr Davis was also ordered to distance himself from companies involved in running the lottery. Mrs Bottomley said on *Channel Four News* last night that she had no plans to alter the powers of the regulator.

Davis: told to distance himself from lottery firms

Mr Davis said in a statement: "I am grateful to the Secretary of State for her expression of confidence in me as the regulator of the National Lottery. I am looking forward to continuing my work of ensuring that the National Lottery is run properly, that players' interests are protected, and that the maximum funds are raised for the good causes."

Mr Davis, Director-General of Oflot, the Office of the National Lottery, was urged to resign after admitting to the Commons Public Accounts Committee last week that he accepted flights in helicopters and private jets belonging to GTech. He also stayed at the Long Island home of Carl Menges, the firm's non-executive director, who has been a family friend for 20 years.

Leading article, page 17

Holloway visitors tell of their fears

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS were told months ago by Holloway's Board of Visitors of mounting alarm at the deterioration in conditions for the jail's hundreds of women inmates.

The board told of serious staff shortages, huge amounts of rubbish strewn around and prisoners being locked in cells for long periods. It also expressed anxiety about low morale in the education department and the number of mentally ill offenders detained in the health care unit.

Lesley Harvey, board vice-chairman, said yesterday: "There are many, many complaints that we have made. They are seen by the Governor. We have sent letters to ministers and what the inspector has said is exactly what we have been saying for some time."

Sir David Ramsbotham, the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, took the unprecedented step of terminating his inspection after finding women locked in their cells for up to 23 hours a day, poor health care, inadequate education and other activities, low staff morale and filthy conditions.

One Prison Service source said conditions in the London jail were dreadful."You name it, it was awful. The place was a shambles," the source said.

Yesterday, as 16 temporary staff drafted from jails in Kent in an attempt to improve conditions arrived at Holloway, the position of the Governor, Janet King, who has been at the jail for 20 months, was under question.

Mrs King, formerly a governor at Strangeways Prison in Manchester, is understood to have asked for an extra 66 officers. A further 25 full-time members of staff will arrive next month.

But penal reform groups and the Prison Officers' Association said a 13.3 per cent Prison Service budget cut during the next three years threatened to cause a further deterioration in conditions.

Last night senior Prison Service sources said Mrs King should not be made a scapegoat. The jail has 561 inmates compared with a certified normal population of 517. In October an extra £300,000 was allocated to help to tackle the problems.

Prisoner's tale, page 2

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Fishermen's friends swept into net on the tide of ambition

POLITICAL SKETCH

This morning, no doubt, the fisherman's new-found friends at Westminster are his quayside toast. But had he time to watch yesterday's debate he would raise his glass with hesitation. One of the most risible scenes in the Westminster farce is the spectacle of MPs professing sudden and special sympathy for a previously neglected group.

Their sympathy is touching. Are you a sewage worker? They know what it's like down there in the drains among the rats. Are you a miner? Why, their own fathers had toiled in the pits.

Are you an ocean fisherman? Ah, Sir Edward Heath knows your skipper. As a child in Kent (he told us during yesterday's debate) he had watched the fishing boats come home.

Nor did his comradeship with the line, the net, the whitebait and the tunny end there. "During my 15 years' ocean racing," he rumbled, he had been able to observe the industry at the closest quarters.

"I bet you just waved at them as you sailed past," shouted the impertinent Dennis Skinner.

"It's no laughing matter," harrumphed Sir Edward. We were witnessing an angry elderly statesman, driven beyond endurance by what he saw as piracy on the high seas. Euro-sceptical Tories yesterday hijacked the fishermen's cause and, all at once, the tiny group of backbenchers who really do speak for the fishing industry found its lobby swamped by a rabid gang of Brussels-baiters clutching to their breasts instant expertise on mackerel landings, net size and the Irish Box.

Teresa Gorman (C), from gale-lashed Billericay, joined Tony Marlow (C) from wave-battered Northampton North and Christopher Gill (C), wiping the salt from his eyes after a weekend on the shores of Ludlow. Of such was the new band of Tory fishermen's friends formed. Labour's sudden sympathy for these British flag-wavers looked equally suspect, their leader's constant complaint being that John Major is "isolated" in Europe. Why had the Labour Walrus joined the Euro-sceptic Tory Carpenters in weeping, now, for the whitings and oysters?

This question was put persistently by the minister leading for the Government, Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth. But Forsyth's own role was a rum one.

Mr Forsyth is a convinced Euro-sceptic. But ambition breeds obedience and Forsyth is doing well. He has taken the Cabinet's shilling. In choosing him to tempt the rebels over, the Government was parading one of its top prisoners.

The trouble with parading prisoners is that they do not speak their lines with the required enthusiasm. Attacking Labour, Forsyth was convinced and convincing; but pleading with the Tory rebels he stumbled through his civil servants' cribsheet like a child in Reading Aloud class. The rebels understood the unwitting message. The body language was clear.

An unforgettable sight was to watch Mr Forsyth watching Sir Edward Heath, as the latter defended his European record on fisheries.

Aware that an expression of solemn approbation was expected of a government minister on this occasion, but unable quite to bring himself to nod, Forsyth kept his head quite still, like a snake watching an exceptionally big rabbit.

When Sir Edward sat down Forsyth realised that he was supposed to say "hear, hear". His mouth opened but his throat wouldn't do it. He just held his lips slightly parted, like those godparents at confirmations who do not believe the words, but wish to be polite. But he uttered not a peep.

One day, after all, Mr Forsyth may need to cast his net on the other side.

First sale of British Rail franchises

Privatisation critics condemn buyer of southwest network

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

BRITISH RAIL'S 48-year monopoly on train services came to an end yesterday when three passenger franchises were sold to private bidders.

The sales of the South West Trains, Great Western and LTS Rail franchises mean that about 20 per cent of the BR network will be privately operated by April. South West Trains, the biggest franchise, was acquired by Stagecoach, Britain's largest bus company. Great Western and LTS Rail went to staff buyouts.

The sales, after weeks of legal uncertainty, were hailed by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, as "an enormous step forward in the development of the railways in this country".

But there was criticism of the choice of Stagecoach, which is bidding for all 25 passenger franchises. Critics said it would be running fewer services at a higher cost to the taxpayer.

South West Trains runs services between Waterloo, London, and the commuter belt in Surrey, Dorset and Hampshire, with tickets worth more than £245 million sold to 95 million passengers a year. Stagecoach will receive a subsidy of £55 million a year to take over the services.

Great Western, which runs InterCity trains to the west Country and South Wales from Paddington, London, has passenger revenues of £156 million a year and receives an annual subsidy of about £50 million. The management buyout is backed by First Bus, the second-biggest bus company in Britain, and 3i, the venture capital group.

LTS Rail operates commuter trains from south Essex and has revenues of £53 million. Further details of the staff buyouts are to be announced this morning.

The staff takeovers at Great Western and LTS Rail are likely to mean only limited changes at their head offices, but staff at South West Trains were preparing themselves for upheaval. Managers from Stagecoach will move into the London headquarters today to oversee the handover.

Stagecoach was started with the backing of a £25,000 redundancy cheque in 1980 by its chairman, Brian Souter, a former bus driver, and his sister, Ann Gloag. It now controls a quarter of the British bus market.

Its aggressive expansion has caused controversy and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission accused it last summer of "predatory and deplorable" behaviour.

Brian Wilson, a Labour transport spokesman, said: "This is a sad day for Britain's railways. The taxpayer is being forced to subsidise the fragmentation of the network.

"It is particularly ironic that privatisation, which began with rhetoric on competition, has ended up with the first franchise going to a ruthlessly anti-competitive company which has faced 24 inquiries into its predatory behaviour."

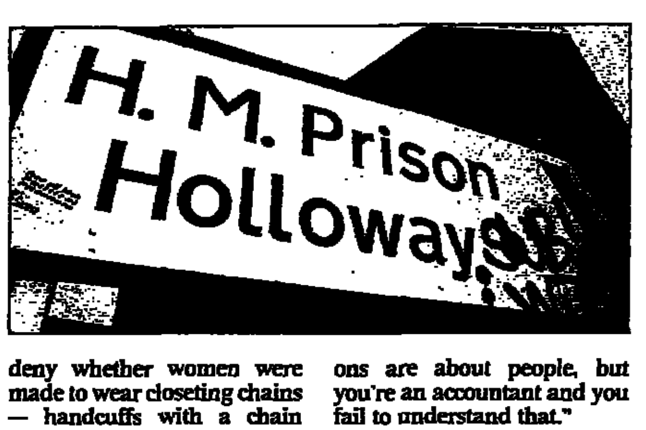
Mr Souter dismissed the criticism, saying that he planned to continue all existing South West services and would not increase fares. "It is our intention to maintain the present service levels and we will seek to improve services where opportunities arise," he said.

Stagecoach intends to run bus services from towns that lost their rail lines during the Beeching cuts of the early 1960s to restore their connections to the train network. Other planned innovations include closed-circuit television on trains to improve security, and higher reliability targets.

Consul Patricia Castano, left, criticised conditions in Holloway, where Sara Thornton wrote her damning letter

Inmate tells of 'rat-infested tomb'

By Stephen Farrell



HOLLOWAY PRISON was a "rat-infested concrete tomb", the former inmate Sara Thornton told Prison Service chiefs seven months ago.

Mrs Thornton, who faces a retrial in the new year for killing her violent husband, protested at conditions inside the jail where two prisoners committed suicide this year.

Her complaints were echoed by others, including Chris Tchaikovsky, director of the campaign group Women in Prison, who yesterday claimed prison officers had forced women who had just given birth "to breastfeed in chains".

The Prison Service yesterday refused to confirm or deny whether women were made to wear closeting chains — handcuffs with a chain linking them to a warder — while breastfeeding. However, a spokesman said it was "not beyond the realms of possibility".

Mrs Thornton, 38, wrote a four-page letter to her MP, obtained by *The Times*, with instructions that it should be passed to Derek Lewis, former Director-General of the Prison Service.

Mrs Thornton wrote on May 22: "The regime here in Holloway is so bad, so demoralising for both staff and inmates, that a glass ban is an attempt to keep the lid on a prison ready to erupt."

"You place emphasis on money, none on people. Prisons are about people, but you're an accountant and you fail to understand that."

Protesting at the death of Lungile Simelane, who committed suicide by hanging herself in her cell in May, she wrote: "Tell me, Mr Lewis, do you accept responsibility for Simmie's death? Do you accept responsibility for this rat-infested concrete tomb?"

Patricia Castano, deputy consul at the Colombian Embassy, said yesterday after seeing drug couriers held inside: "The conditions are much better than in Colombian prisons, but it is overcrowded and there is a lack of staff. Many of these women are poor and ignorant, not hardened criminals." Emma Humphreys, who was freed from Holloway in July after her successful appeal against a murder sentence for killing her boyfriend, said: "The way that we were treated was disgusting. We were barely let out of our cells and hardly any attention was paid to our mental and physical health, leaving some inmates suicidal or desperately ill."

"The idea that prison is like a holiday camp is a ludicrous one. One week in Holloway would prove that. It's about time things changed."

Another former prisoner said constant searches carried out by staff drove them mad. Karen Stott, who spent a week in Holloway recently, yesterday emerged after visiting a friend and said: "It is really 24-hour lock-up all the time. There's not much association with other prisoners each day and you are lucky to get it. The mood is very tense because it's just all women with nothing to do."

However, one mother of two who recently served seven days for non-payment of a fine told reporters: "It's disgusting, and you can't eat the food, but that's what you expect — it's a prison, not a holiday camp."

I can't show fear, says 'Rambo'

THE decision by General Sir David Ramsbotham to end the inspection at Holloway Prison was greeted with delight by penal reform groups yesterday who wanted an early signal that he intended to be as robustly independent as his predecessor, Judge Stephen Tumim (Richard Ford writes).

Few in Whitehall or the Prison Service expected Sir David, 61, who is nicknamed "Rambo", to make such a dramatic move within 14 days of taking over from Judge Tumim as Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Since moving into his room in the Home Office at Queen Anne's Gate, Sir David has immersed himself in learning about the prison system. He attended the annual meeting of the Howard League for Penal Reform and, by the end of this week, he will have visited every type of institution, from top security to open jail.

Until his appointment Sir David, a former Adjutant-General in the Army, had seen prison life through visits to the Military Corrective Training Centre — the army glasshouse — at Colchester, and when, as Commander 39 Brigade, he went into the Crumlin Road jail in Belfast.

After his appointment, which is initially for five years, he said: "My job on behalf of the public is to go into prisons and make reports without showing any fear or favour to anyone. If I start fudging, then I am *not* doing my job. I shall be very critical, but I hope constructive."

Trimble tells Major of plans for assembly

John Major and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, spent an hour at Downing Street yesterday afternoon discussing unionist plans for an elected assembly in Northern Ireland.

Mr Trimble has floated the idea of an assembly as an alternative to exploratory talks as a way of establishing a dialogue with Sinn Fein. The Prime Minister has expressed interest in the proposal, which could allow all-party talks without the republicans first agreeing to abandon some of their weapons.

Afterwards Mr Trimble said he was encouraged by the outcome of his talks, which were also attended by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Meningitis death

A student has died from meningitis six hours after reporting sick to the her university doctor. Suzanne Williams, 18, a student at Leicester University, was taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary where she died from meningococccal septicaemia, a virulent strain of meningitis. Other students have been alerted to the symptoms.

Officer's 'error'

An Army officer who went to a golf tournament in a military helicopter has been disciplined but will not face court martial. Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Connon, commander of the 3rd Battalion The Highland Regiment, was found guilty of an "error of judgment" in taking the helicopter from Nairn, Highland, to Prestwick, Strathclyde.

Redwood's plea

John Redwood calls today for Britain to reassert its traditional role as a brake on ambitions of over-mighty continental powers. The former Cabinet minister, writing in *The Times*, equates the drive to political and monetary union to a merger between France and Germany aimed at creating a "colossal power".

Speaking for Europe, p16

Titanic libel

An 83-year-old expert on the sinking of the *Titanic* was given an apology and "substantial" damages by Patrick Stephens Ltd, publishers of *The Ship That Stood Still* at the High Court. Leslie Reade's book claimed that Leslie Harrison, a retired master mariner, had pressured a witness to change *his* story while investigating the disaster.

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MPs want change on lifers' release

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

MPs called yesterday for the scrapping of the Home Secretary's power to decide how long prisoners serving life for murder should stay in jail. In a report which may fuel the furore over Myra Hindley, the MPs said it was wrong for a politician to make the decision.

The report, by the influential Home Affairs Committee chaired by Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, also questioned the part that public opinion can play in setting a murderer's release date. Although the Home Secretary might be best-placed to respond to public opinion, said the MPs, that "public opinion is not necessarily the surest guide" to when murderers should be released.

Instead, the Parole Board should assess the risk of releasing murderers as it does with discretionary life sentence prisoners, the MPs recommended. The committee is to make a further report on the details of how the release of murderers would be decided, without the involvement of the Home Secretary. Their report coincides with the pending Parole Board review of Hindley, the Moors murderer, in the new year. The Board would then make recommendations to the Home Secretary but these are not binding. Last year, Michael Howard said she should remain inside for life.

The MPs do not favour scrapping the mandatory life sentence for murder, as suggested by some senior legal figures.

☐ The Lord Chancellor is ending the secret selection procedures for part-time judges, under which lawyers may wait for years to hear if they are being chosen for the bench. In future, lawyers aspiring to the judiciary will apply to published advertisements and go through new selection procedures, Lord Mackay of Clashfern said.

Annual selection procedures will be introduced for all assistant recorderships, the stepping-stone to a career as a judge.

Councils delay curbs on asylum

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

THE Government's proposals to cut benefits to asylum seekers are threatened with further delay after a High Court decision to allow two councils to challenge the move.

The local authorities were given permission yesterday to seek a judicial review of the plans to save £200 million a year. Last week the Government had to announce the postponement of the start date for the changes from January 8 so that Parliament had a chance to debate the measures, which will affect 13,000 asylum seekers.

The legal challenge by Tory-controlled Westminster council and Labour Hammersmith and Fulham centres on the fact that asylum seekers will lose entitlement to housing benefit but local authorities will still have a duty to house them until new legislation comes into force in July. They argue that the move will land them with a bill of up to £50 million.

The councils say that the measures will not create savings but only pass the financial burden from central to local government.

The Social Security Secretary's proposals will end benefit to any asylum seekers appealing against a refusal of refugee status and to anyone who applies for asylum having entered Britain for another reason, for instance as a visitor or student.

Mr Justice May rejected an argument from Stephen Richards, for Peter Lilley, that the legal move was premature. Mr Richards said the Government's proposals were still open to debate in Parliament and that there was no effective decision yet to be reviewed by the court.

The Government says the clampdown will "remove an unwarranted burden on public funds and make clear the limits of what the Government believes to be publicly acceptable". Refugee organisations claim that the cuts will force asylum seekers on to the streets.

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Self-styled Lucifer loved terrorising robbery victims

By Joanna Bale

A ROBBER who called himself Lucifer and gloried in terrorising his wealthy victims in their homes at night was convicted yesterday.

During an eight-week trial, a jury at Middlesex Crown Court was told how Keith Bramble chose mansions in north London, deliberately stalking professional people such as solicitors, doctors and company directors. He believed he would never be caught "because he had the cunning of the devil" said Martin Heslop, QC, for the prosecution.

In his worst attack, the 6ft 5in robber kicked an 89-year-old man on the floor. A police surveillance operation finally trapped him and an accomplice. Yesterday Bramble, 36, was found guilty of three charges of robbery, and one charge of assault with intent. Sentence is to be passed today.

The jury had been told that Bramble would dress all in black, his face covered with a scarf, before breaking into houses, often armed with weapons including crowbars, knives and screwdrivers.

In November last year, two sisters, Linda and Wendy Ashley, were watching television and looking after young children at Totteridge, Hertfordshire. Mr Heslop said: "Wendy looked up and was horrified to see a huge man in black clothes come into the kitched holding a crowbar, with a mask concealing his face."

He called the sisters "bitches" and demanded their jewellery. He then tried to lock them in a bathroom before ransacking their house. The women escaped further threats by pretending they were au pairs who did not know where valuables were kept.

They raised the alarm and police used a helicopter with an infra-red tracking device to pursue the robber. Bramble bragged later: "They know it's me, they know it's my work. Lucifer is the only one they would come out for with a helicopter."

He squandered his £10,000 haul on prostitutes and drugs, then struck again. His next victims were lawyers living at a large, luxury house backing on to woods in north London. Debra Finkler, a solicitor, was reading a bedtime story to her two-year-son James when Bramble burst in. The court was told: "Suddenly she looked up and there in the doorway was a man well over 6ft tall. He had an athletic build and a mask tied round his face like a highwayman. She was horrified."

She was told not to move but, as Bramble started walking towards a children's bedroom, she ran downstairs shouting: "There is a man in the house."

Mr Heslop added: 'He walked around as if he had a right to be there. He took his pick of the valuables."

Mrs Finkler's husband Alan was holding their daughter Theodora, aged seven months. Mr Finkler shouted for their nanny to call the police but, counsel said, Bramble snarled: "Don't be stupid, you don't want the children hurt, do you?" Mr Finkler was pushed about, still clutching his daughter, as Bramble snatched his expensive wristwatch then disappeared into the woods.

Bramble: believed he would never be caught

The most terrifying robbery took place a week later, when Bramble took his accomplice, Anthony Gabbidon, 31.

Having dinner at their home in Finchley, north London, were William Angel, a 69-year-old company director, his wife Frances, 67, and her brother, Dr Bernard Berman, 89, who is stricken with Alzheimer's disease.

As Mrs Angel went to the kitchen, she was cornered by Bramble who growled at her then ran past to attack her husband. Mr Angel defended himself with a small table, but Bramble threw this aside and then turned on the elderly doctor. He was pushed to the floor and kicked. Mr Angel warned Bramble that his victim was very ill and likely to die from the shock, but Bramble was 'remorseless and showed no compassion", counsel said.

He released the Angels but said he would shoot them. He also told Mr Angel he would poke his eye out with a screwdriver if he failed to reveal the whereabouts of his safe. The pair escaped with jewellery and cash from the safe.

However, police had tracked them to the house, and were waiting outside. Bramble injured several officers in a struggle as they tried to arrest him.

Mr Heslop said: "These robberies were terrifying. They were highly professional, carefully prepared and ruthlessly carried out.

"He bragged about how confident he was of never being caught. He said he only hit really large houses where there would be lots of money. He said he enjoyed terrorising his victims and sneaking up on them. He would wait in woodland for the weather to change because it was better when rain and wind covered the noise. Bad weather also made it difficult for police and police dogs to track him.

"He claimed there was nothing police could do because he was as cunning as the devil. He said at one time he was protected by the devil."

Bramble, of Tottenham, north London, denied the three robberies and assault while resisting arrest. Gabbidon, also of Tottenham, admitted robbery and was found guilty of wounding with intent.

Bramble was jailed in 1990 for six years for two aggravated burglaries. His latest robberies were the subject of two trials. The first was aborted after Bramble's defence barristers retired through ill-health related to heart problems. A juror was discharged after he became sick, and on the final day a second juror was also unwell.

Detective Inspector John Shatford said of Bramble: "He is an extremely dominating, manipulative and evil man. Everyone he knew was too scared to stand up to him. He is used to getting his way."

Silvana Ashby wants to rebuild friendship with husband

DES JENSON

Silvana Ashby outside the High Court yesterday. She said: "I want to make it clear that I am not obsessively jealous"

I still love him, says wife who gave evidence against MP

By Kathryn Knight and Michael Horsnell

SILVANA ASHBY said yesterday that she still loved her husband and had no plans to divorce him after the traumatic four-week libel action. Mrs Ashby, who rushed to comfort her husband in court but was pushed away, said it would be a long time before the family recovered from the raw wounds exposed by the case.

However, she hopes she can now build a friendship with her husband of 30 years, and said her main concern was to resume a normal relationship with their daughter Alexandra, 27, who gave evidence for her father.

Despite the acrimonious battle between them, the couple often kissed each other on the cheek each morning before taking their seats on opposite sides of the courtroom. "This case does not mean the end of everything, we still have to get on with our lives. I still care for David, I don't want to hurt him. I feel very sorry for him," she said.

Alexandra: she gave evidence for her father

"The most important thing is to try and rebuild our family relationships."

Mrs Ashby, who was born in Turin, northern Italy, hugged her husband as he sat with his head in his hands after the verdict but he pushed her away. "I said 'I'm very sorry' but he said 'Just leave me'," she said.

She said Alexandra had telephoned her the night before the verdict, asking if she could fly from Italy to spend Christmas with her mother at the family home in Putney, southwest London. She said she wanted to be with her daughter but admitted it would be "difficult".

In court Alexandra, a stockbroker, claimed to love her parents equally but sat with her father and denounced her mother's possessiveness, saying "I criticise her methods. I don't criticise her for being unhappy."

Mrs Ashby said: "I love my daughter and I forgive her but it will be a long time before things get back to normal. I will spend Christmas in England because I cannot leave my dogs. We will see what happens." She said she had no plans to return permanently to Italy, where she met and fell in love with Mr Ashby 31 years ago on a skiing holiday in the Alps.

The couple spent three days together, talking in French because neither could speak the other's language. "We just clicked. We had something in common and I admired his thinking," she said. "I hope to stay in England. Perhaps there will be a situation where I spend eight months here and four months in Italy."

Earlier, in a statement outside the High Court immediately after the verdict, she said she gained no pleasure from seeing her husband lose the expensive libel action and had frequently asked him to drop the case. "On numerous occasions I asked him to think twice before continuing with the case which I did not think would be in anybody's long term interests."

However, she emphasised that she had been distressed by accusations of jealousy and hysteria in court.

The statement said: "I want to make it clear that I am not 'obsessively jealous' and have never shown 'extreme hatred or violence' towards David or anyone else. While I regret some of the language in the letters I wrote — and which were read in court — they were the product of the emotional turmoil that I was going through in the latter part of 1993."

Colleagues rally to loser in libel case

Continued from page 1

hypocrite in having emphasised the importance of the family in his election address.

Times Newspapers and the former *Sunday Times* editor Andrew Neil denied libel, although they accepted that Mr Ashby did not go on holiday to Goa with a man. They maintained that he was and still is having an affair with Dr Kilduff.

After the verdict, the newspaper's solicitor, Alastair Brett, said he would expect the present editor, John Witherow, to see the case as a "tragic family problem" and be sensible about what to do now. "We will have to show magnanimity in our victory."

A statement from *The Sunday Times* said: "We are obviously delighted to have won the case. We are sorry that Mr Ashby decided to take us to court and that he now faces a substantial legal bill. But it was his choice. His case and ours could not have been more fully aired in the High Court."

Mr Brett said that the biggest liability facing Mr Ashby "by a long, long way" was the bill from his solicitor, Peter Carter-Ruck, and his barristers.

Mr Ashby, who told the court that he had financial problems, resigned from Lloyd's two years ago after suffering substantial but unspecified losses. He jointly owns with his wife their marital home in Putney, which is worth about £400,000, and a constituency house worth about £260,000. He, alone, also owns an £80,000 flat in Putney, which is rented out. His mortgages are understood to total more than £70,000.

He has an income as a criminal barrister on top of his salary as an MP, but the effect of the case on his career at the Bar remains uncertain.

Senior Tories yesterday expressed their determination to help him and launched a campaign "to keep him buoyant" that was immediately evident in his reception in the Commons.

The Government's majority of five has made it more important than usual to ensure that Mr Ashby does not go under — the Tories already face a by-election in South East Staffordshire that could cut that advantage to three and they would almost certainly lose Mr Ashby's seat if that were contested.

Drunken lawyer 'lunged at girl'

By A Staff Reporter

A LEADING criminal lawyer indecently assaulted a student as she left a nightclub, Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday. Richard Levene, 38, was drunk and lost his "proper inhibitions" when he lunged at the 19-year-old. Then when he turned to run away he bumped into a tree and broke his glasses.

Mr Levene, a barrister with the Crown Prosecution Service, allegedly molested the girl as she and a friend left a party in Bristol in July.

A passer-by heard screams and called at a police station. Police drove the girls around until they saw Mr Levene dodging in and out of shop doorways. He had marks on his face which he claimed were from an argument in a restaurant.

The student, who had been celebrating the end of her college course, said: "A man approached us really quickly and made a grab for me. My friend ran off after him but he had hit the tree and his glasses had fallen. As he hit the tree, I think that he swore. I screamed out, my friend screamed out. He ran down the street."

Mr Levene, of Henleaze, Avon, denies indecent assault. When he was interviewed by police the following day, he claimed he had been attacked, and had used force to defend himself before running away.

Earlier, Charles Barton, QC, for the defence, asked his client's alleged victim: "Do you say that you can exclude the possibility that it was a drunken mistake?" "No," she replied.

The trial continues.

ROSS PARRY

PC Godber arriving for the disciplinary hearing

Assault case PC to keep his job

By Paul Wilkinson

THE community policeman who was facing dismissal for pulling a teenage boy's ear had the threat lifted yesterday.

There was a public outcry last month when PC Nicholas Godber was convicted of common assault on the 15-year-old boy as he attempted to stop his rowdy behaviour in a shopping arcade. An anonymous well-wisher from his home beat town of Baildon in West Yorkshire paid his £600 costs and fine and the £50 compensation he was ordered to give the youth.

Yesterday at an internal disciplinary hearing in Wakefield, Keith Hellawell, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, delivered a formal caution, the minimum punishment possible. After the hearing PC Godber, 37, said: "The last months have produced a few trying moments for my family and me, but we have been given such outstanding support from my wider family, friends, colleagues, neighbours at home, the people of Baildon and Shipley and indeed people from all walks of life from all over the country and abroad."

He said that money donated by wellwishers would be given to local charities. He would not discuss the incident last January but said: "I do want to put things into perspective. The vast majority of our teenagers are sound, intelligent kids who give the police their backing."

Roger Benn, chairman of the West Yorkshire Police Federation, said that an appeal against the assault conviction was "still under review".

Santa gets police escort after attack

By Alan Hamilton

SANTA CLAUS and his elves have been given police protection after being attacked by stone-throwing youths in the back streets of a mining town in Tyne and Wear.

Children as young as ten shouted "fat bastard" and threw stones and beer cans as the familiar figure in red robe and white beard, accompanied by helpers in green tights and pointed ears, drove around Moorsley and Hetton-le-Hole, between Sunderland and Durham City, attempting to bestow seasonal cheer and goodwill by playing Christmas carols from the back of his sleigh.

In future Mr Claus, who in this instance was played by Tony Wilkinson, a supply teacher and member of Hetton Rotary Club, will be accompanied by a police officer and two part-time special constables.

Police were called when Mr Claus's sleigh — a heavily decorated Land Rover — was surrounded by youths who tried to overturn it as he and his companions proffered collecting-buckets to raise money for local charities. Mr Wilkinson was hit on the leg by a missile and left badly shaken by the attack. A police spokesman said: "Santa just had to sit there ho-ho-hoing because the nice children don't want to see him raise a fist in anger, even if he is badly provoked."

Sunderland police had assigned an officer to the Santa patrol, but on the night in question he was called away to other duties. Mr Wilkinson has now declined to venture out again without more serious protection than elves.

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Former IRA man shot dead 'for drugs dealing'

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA killed one of its former commanders because of his criminal activities, it was alleged yesterday.

The group Families Against Intimidation and Terror said a gunman shouted "Up the IRA" after shooting Francis Collins in the nationalist New Lodge area on Monday night. It was the fourth such killing in Belfast this year.

Mr Collins, a former IRA leader in north Belfast who, according to security sources, had been involved in the Provisionals' murder campaign, was involved in drugs but specialised in robberies. Anne, his widow, issued a statement last night denying that he had been a drugs dealer.

Nancy Gracey, of the anti-intimidation group, said the IRA had a hit-list of 12 alleged drugs dealers: two had been killed this year. The name of a third murdered man was allegedly not on the list.

Mr Collins, 40, a convicted IRA terrorist, was shot in the legs and chest in front of his wife at their chip shop after two men broke in. He died on the way to hospital.

Ms Gracey said: "It does not matter if he was a drugs dealer. He was a human being." She said Mr Collins's name was not on the hit-list but he had been a target because those on the list who remained alive were in hiding.

Before holding talks at Stormont with Gerry Adams, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, condemned the murder, saying in a statement: "There can be no justification for gunning down a man in front of his wife in this cowardly fashion: to do so in the week before Christmas illustrates the total callousness of these vicious gunmen."

Mr Adams tried to distance his party from the murder, saying: "Sinn Fein does not condone what happened. All of these killings are a dreadful tragedy for the families."

He refused to comment on reports that a group calling itself Direct Action Against Drugs had claimed it committed the shooting: "I have heard speculation about a number of groups involved in direct action against social offenders and other criminal types."

Other political parties had no doubt that it was the work of the IRA. Seamus Lynch, of the Democratic Left, blamed Sinn Fein's "policing department". He said: "These self-appointed judges, jurors and executioners have decided that Mr Collins's children have no right to the peace process."

The Alliance Party, which also condemned the murder, is today in Dublin to become the first Northern Ireland party to hold a trilateral meeting with the British and Irish Governments under the new Anglo-Irish twin-track process.

PACEMAKER

Francis Collins, who was shot dead in Belfast, pictured with his children

Grandparents set the pace

Calculators blamed for generation of arithmetic dunces

By Catherine Milton

YOUNG shoppers who find themselves short-changed in the pre-Christmas rush were given a ready scapegoat yesterday: the use of calculators in primary school classrooms.

A study has found that undergraduates cannot match their parents' or grandparents' generations on simple mental arithmetic.

In a test of 60 mental arithmetic sums conducted by Tony Ward, a lecturer in cognitive psychology at Luton University, 30 students aged 18 to 35 made an average of seven more mistakes than people aged 45 to 65 of similar intelligence.

"Young bright students often do appallingly in this test, far worse than people older than them, who should be slower at processing information," Dr Ward told the British Psychological Society's conference in London. The use of calculators in primary schools was an obvious explanation.

Over-reliance on calculators in primary schools has caused such concern that Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, is considering the introduction of mental arithmetic tests for 11-year-olds. She has already approved plans for a calculator-free test for the age group.

Dr Ward decided to conduct the test after he noticed undergraduates resorting to counting on their fingers for simple sums. One young woman was unable to multiply 7 by 8. "We are probably being short-changed a lot more in shops because shop assistants cannot add up so well but, since we probably do not notice, perhaps we don't need to worry," he said.

Dr Ward used the Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task, which helps to check brain damage in suspected cases of concussion. Volunteers listened to single-digit numbers, randomly selected, recorded at two second intervals. They had to add the numbers in successive pairs and call out the answers.

The results surprised researchers at Luton because people's brains are believed to slow when they get older. Dr Ward said a separate test in which the same volunteers had to find objects on a map confirmed that the younger group was generally quicker.

He said the results suggested the auditory task test might no longer be appropriate for assessing the speed of mental processes. "We should not think this is tragic and put more funds into basic number and rote learning. If you look at what is done in the primary classroom these days, kids are being taught all sorts of things they weren't before, especially on the creative side."

☐ Mature students achieve better degree results than young undergraduates, the conference was told. A study of the degree results of almost 7,000 students at Plymouth University between 1991 and 1995 found that, on average, those under 25 averaged lower seconds while those in their late twenties and older achieved upper seconds.

"We strongly suspect that motivation may explain these results," said Sherria Hoskins, a psychology lecturer and postgraduate student at Plymouth University who conducted the study. "The decision to leave jobs and go to university, the motivation, may overcome whatever other difficulties mature students encounter."

More than half of the 1.5 million students at British universities and colleges are classed as mature — 21 or older when they start their course, or 25 and above when starting postgraduate study.

Miss Hoskins added that mature students adapted quickly to university culture and younger students would seek them out as friends.

The study also found that young men achieved the highest number of third-class degrees but, contrary to previous studies, men and women scored an equal number of first-class degrees.

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Expelled pupils 'being failed' by special units

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

THE growing number of children expelled from mainstream schools and sent to pupil referral units, set up by the Government two years ago, risk being condemned to a lifetime of failure according to the Office for Standards in Education. It criticised yesterday "*low achievement*, weak teaching, lack of planning and poor accommodation" at the units, known as sinbins.

The units provide intensive teaching for small numbers of pupils. Teaching unions have called for more pupils to be sent to the units because of mounting concern at violence in mainstream schools. Demands for more places increased in the wake of the murder of the head teacher Philip Lawrence.

Ofsted said in a report that teachers at the units showed considerable compassion in working with difficult pupils despite often being at personal risk. But the Ofsted inspectors said: "Compassion is not enough and, where it is combined with a belief that social problems need to be tackled before children can learn, it is self-defeating." Children at the units regularly played truant and could be tempted into crime.

Inspectors said the intensive lessons made little impact on poor levels of spoken and written English in most cases. "Overall, the quality of teaching fell below that found in *mainstream schools*."

The report concluded: "Many of the children in this situation are at serious risk of educational failure and exclusion from a whole range of vocational, cultural and social opportunities. Pupil referral units deal with some of the most disaffected pupils in the educational system. As yet, few do so at all adequately, and few are appropriately supported in their efforts to do so."

Pupil referral units were launched under the 1993 Education Act for pupils who have been expelled or cannot for other reasons attend mainstream schools. All local authorities are required to set them up, but so far only two-thirds have.

More than 9,000 children aged six to 16 were in the units at the last official count earlier this year. Boys outnumber girls two to one and Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said there were a "disproportionate number of black Caribbean boys".

He added: "It would be premature to suggest the experiment is a failure. The question is, can the units act on the criticisms we are making to improve the quality of education?"

Robin Squire, junior Education Minister, said: "Local education authorities have a duty to ensure that pupils excluded from school are given a decent education."

Woodhead: concerned about education quality

School bullies pick on racial minorities

ASIAN and black children suffer more victimisation at school than their white classmates, a two-year Home Office study on bullying disclosed yesterday (David Charter writes). Researchers found that tense race relations in communities spilt over into the four schools they visited in the East End of London and in Liverpool.

The study found that the atmosphere in schools worsened when former pupils were loitering near the gates. This undermined the confidence of staff and pupils in the safety of their school, the report said.

The study concluded that bullying could be "nipped in the bud" if the schools used a series of measures including better playground supervision and discussion groups for parents of victims and bullies. However, racial bullying was the most difficult kind to prevent, although significant reductions were achieved.

The report added: "Bengalis and black pupils appeared to be disproportionately victimised. In the London secondary school where bullying did not decrease, the Bengalis suffered the highest incidence of bullying." Work to counteract racism should include schools because of the link found between them and tension in the community, the researchers concluded.

هذا من الاصل

Conservative MP awarded £40,000 over accusation of betraying Clegg

Tories' new spin doctor co-wrote libellous story

By Nicholas Wood
Chief Political Correspondent

CHARLES LEWINGTON, the new media chief at Conservative Central Office, suffered the embarrassment of being involved in a £40,000 libel award to a Tory MP yesterday.

Peter Bottomley, husband of Virginia, the National Heritage Secretary, had sued Express Newspapers over a story accusing him of betraying Private Lee Clegg, the jailed paratrooper, by appearing on the same platform as Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Fein leader. Mr Lewington, who then worked for the *Sunday Express*, was one of three authors of the article, headed "The Final Betrayal" published in January. He took up his new post last Thursday after being headhunted by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman.

Mr Bottomley, a former Northern Ireland Minister, said after winning the award in the High Court: "It would have been possible to have avoided this writ if we had come to some agreement earlier on. I don't mind robust criticism or even vulgar criticism but this stopped me doing what I have devoted my life to — ending the violence in Northern Ireland."

Lewington: played down involvement

Mr Lewington played down the verdict, pointing out that he had not been named as a defendant. He said: "My role in the case was peripheral. I was not called as a witness."

But a senior Labour official commented: "Dr Mawhinney will be hoping that Charles's political judgment is rather better."

Thomas Shields, QC, who represented the MP, had told the hearing that Mr Bottomley had been "shocked and horrified" when he read the article, which linked his sharing of a platform with Mr McGuinness and the failure to free Private Clegg, who at that time was in jail for shooting a joyrider in Northern Ireland.

The 51-year-old MP for Eltham had told the court he was prepared to talk to two *Sunday Express* journalists at his Surrey home. He had explained he did not see any link with his decision to appear at the meeting and the failure of the House of Lords action to free Private Clegg. Mr Lewington was not one of the two journalists. The article which appeared the following day did not contain one reference to his remarks to the journalists on why he attended the meeting on behalf of his peace group, New Dialogue.

George Carman, QC, representing Express Newspapers and Brian Hitchen, then editor of the *Sunday Express*, said the article was fair comment on matters of great public interest.

Justin Walford, legal adviser to Express Newspapers, which were also ordered to pay the estimated £250,000 costs of the eight-day case, said the company was considering an appeal because of the questions raised over press freedom.

A statement from the peace group New Dialogue said: "Peter Bottomley's principled stand against paramilitary violence — and any illegitimate use of force in Northern Ireland and more widely — deserves wide respect. So does his decision to stand up to the innuendo and inaccuracies of some tabloid journalism."

Bottomley: attended meeting for peace group

Parents of murdered girl appeal for help

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

THE family of a 16-year-old schoolgirl, murdered as she walked home from a pantomime, appealed yesterday for help in finding her killer.

Police believe Mhairi Julyan was the victim of a sex attack. She is believed to have been strangled and badly beaten. Her attacker is likely to have been heavily bloodstained.

The dead girl's father, Philip Julyan, 46, supported by his wife Maureen, 46, and his 21-year-old daughter Claire, held back tears as he said: "Just come forward and let the police know. We've got to find out. We must."

Mhairi was murdered as she walked home from the *Sleeping Beauty* pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, on Saturday night. Her body was found in undergrowth near the Stagecoach bus depot 150 yards from her *home on Sunday at 3pm.*

Detective Chief Inspector Bob Lauder of Strathclyde Police said there was "a very real possibility" that the killer had local knowledge.

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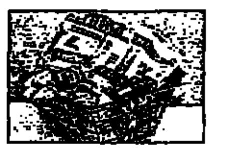

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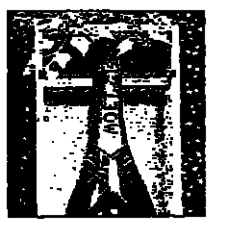

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Christmas adds up to £7bn extra spending

By Robin Young

BRITONS spend £7 billion a year on Christmas, about £130 for every man, woman and child. The calculation has been made by the market analysts Mintel, who gathered the figures from industry estimates of the extra sales generated at Christmas.

Mintel says the country spends more than £1 billion on purely Christmas items: £45 million is spent on Christmas lights, £30 million on crackers, £268 million on cards, £85 million on Christmas stamps, and £150 million on gift wrappings. Christmas confectionery novelties net another £60 million.

A total of £4 billion — equivalent to £75 a person — goes on presents and the population spends a total of £1 billion more on alcohol and tobacco than at other times of the year. Christmas food and groceries involve an extra expense of £250 million, the analysts reckon, but that is alleviated by the cheapness of frozen turkey, a Christmas staple much cheaper than the food families usually eat.

The researchers estimate that an extra expense three times as large goes on entertainment and eating out, which claims an additional £750 million over the period.

Uncertainties about the economy have made older shoppers cautious, according to Mintel. The analysts said that a poll of 1,600 consumers showed that older people "seemed determined to be gloomy". Christmas has been saved, analysts feel, by younger consumers, who were more likely to feel optimistic and spend more freely.

Reliant car plant lays off workers

The future of the Reliant Robin, the three-wheeled car, was looking bleak last night after more than 100 workers were laid off. Emergency talks were held between executives at the factory in Tamworth, Staffordshire, and management from the parent company, the Tewkesbury-based avionics company Avonex. Reliant was rescued from receivership earlier this year.

The new management is hoping to find a lucrative market in America for a new battery-operated electric model of the car, favoured by the television character "Del Boy" Trotter of *Only Fools and Horses*.

Canal death

A partygoer who was pulled from a canal drowned when he jumped in again for a joke while his rescuer answered his mobile telephone. Paul Phoenix, 24, had been at a pub in Brierley Hill, West Midlands, with workmates.

Council rapped

The local government ombudsman has recommended that Lambeth council in south London pays £18,000 to a man and his seven children who were moved 34 times in five years to different bed and breakfast accommodation.

Wrong track

New timetables for Reading to Slough trains say the 8.52am Sunday service will terminate at Outer Mongolia. Great Western Trains said typists had *used the* words to remind them to check information, but forgot to delete them.

Divine intervention aids clamped driver

By Paul Wilkinson

THE true spirit of Christmas saved a motorist stranded by wheel clampers outside York Minster yesterday.

Adrian Keefe, a surveyor from Worcester, could find no one to help when he found he had no money for the release fee. He had left his credit cards and cheque book at home but the clampers would not listen, the police said it was nothing to do with them and even his hotel refused a loan.

Mr Keefe sought help inside the Minster and found a Good Samaritan in the shape of Canon Glyn Webster, who had just finished a carol service. Mr Webster paid the £50 clampers' fee himself, saying that he was acting in the spirit of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer: "They reel to and fro and stagger like drunken men and are at their wit's end. So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble He delivereth them out of their distress."

Canon Webster: paid the clampers' £50 fee

Yesterday Mr Keefe, who had been helping his teenage daughter to check degree courses at York University, said: "The Church was the *only* place I could turn to. Everyone else ignored my pleas." The clampers, SM Security Services of York, declined to accept his watch as security. His hotel, which was next to the waste ground in Monk Bar where he had parked, rejected the idea of his wife paying for two rooms by credit card over the telephone if she was not going to use them.

Mr Keefe said: "I was at my wit's end. When the Canon loaned me the money I went to the hotel and told them I'd managed to find one Christian in York. It's just disgusting what happened." He said he would be reimbursing Mr Webster.

Canon Webster said: "The way the clamper handled it was inhumane." No one from the company was available for comment last night.

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APPEAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA

Could you send a better gift this Christmas?

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not the first things to spring to mind when you think about buying presents this Christmas. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And they can be found in each baby box sent with a donation in Britain to a despairing mother in Bosnia, via British charity Feed the Children.

As peace in Bosnia is trumpeted in the corridors of power, a young mother sheltering in a tractor cabin in northwest Bosnia knows what the really important issue is tonight: how to keep her shivering and vulnerable toddler safe from disease and infection in appalling conditions and biting cold.

She has been living on the edge of life since October, when she was forced to flee her home in Velika Kladusa – with only five minutes to pack a carrier bag – and huddle with 22,000 other people along five kilometres of road in Klupjensko valley.

She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosnia and Croatia who have received baby boxes full of the basic essentials they need to help protect their children from the filthy conditions in which they are surviving: clean nappies and baby cream to soothe burning nappy rash, soap to wash urine-soaked babygros and dirty nappies, antiseptic for cuts, disinfectant for the muddy floors of their shelters...

From me to you and your child

Inside each box, packed by volunteers at Feed the Children's aid supply centre in Reading, is a message from the person who made it possible. For the exhausted, often traumatised woman who receives it, it is a potent sign that somewhere, somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child.

"It's like a voice breaking through the isolation and hopelessness surrounding these mothers and children, saying 'we know how hard it is for you, we care what happens to you.'" explains Gaynor Jones, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Feed the Children. "They take it very personally."

"I wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box."

So do the individuals who take up Feed the Children's invitation to send a message along with their £30 donation. "Seeing those mothers in Bosnia on the television, clinging to their children for dear life in appalling conditions, I wanted to do more than send a donation," says Karin Weatherup, who has sent a baby box. "I wanted to send a message. I wanted to say to the mother opening the box, 'You're doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that, for which I'm very grateful."

Julie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason. "I just wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box. It was that personal involvement which really appealed to me."

Does peace in Bosnia make a difference?

In many areas of Bosnia, peace simply means that the shooting has stopped. But the problem is that whole communities have been chased from their homes, and are either too afraid to return or will find only a scorched patch of earth or bombed-out shell where their home used to be.

"There are many truly lost people," says Stewart Crocker, Deputy Director at Feed the Children. "We must ensure they are not forgotten amidst the news of the Dayton peace initiative. Their needs are tremendous, especially those of the mothers and young children. They are trying to move forward, trying to rebuild their lives.

"People in Britain can take one major worry from these mothers by giving them what they need to care for their little ones – a Feed the Children baby box."

Children in Bosnia and Croatia have suffered enough. You can help them recover.

Photograph courtesy Daily Mail

Despite the Dayton peace initiative, mothers and young children in Bosnia trying to rebuild their lives need even the most basic essentials to succeed.

A message from you this Christmas would mean so much to a Bosnian mother.

▶▶▶ SENT WITH LOVE FROM A FRIEND

It costs £30 to send a baby box to a Bosnian mother and baby. If you would like to send one – or more, please call 0990 600610 or complete and return the coupon below.
If you would also like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please enclose it with your donation and Feed the Children will put it inside your baby box.

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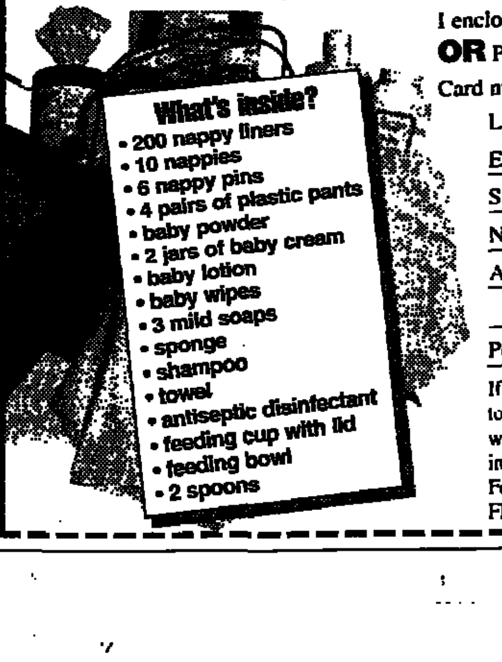

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- antiseptic disinfectant
- feeding cup with lid
- feeding bowl
- 2 spoons

Constables win libel damages from BBC

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO policemen who sued the BBC over a *Panorama* programme they said portrayed them as racists won libel damages yesterday.

In a unanimous verdict returned after nearly seven hours of deliberation, a High Court jury awarded PC Christopher Wright £12,500 and PC Peter Callaghan £4,000. The BBC was also ordered to pay the costs of the case, unofficially estimated at £200,000.

The officers were not named in the programme in April 1991, called *Race Hate UK*, but said they were identifiable to colleagues and the public in east London.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, for the officers, told Mr Justice Curtis and the jury that the BBC programme, seen by 2.8 million viewers, portrayed them as racist officers who arrested an Asian shopkeeper — later acquitted of assaulting a white customer — for no reason other than his race and colour. "That is a lie," Lord Williams said. "They were two constables carrying out their duty, which is not always easy and not always simple." Their reputations were seriously damaged and their feelings greatly hurt.

The BBC denied libel and pleaded fair comment, saying that the officers were not identifiable from the programme, and that it did not accuse them of being racist.

'Ultimate detective job' for philosopher-policeman likened to Morse

Anti-terrorist commander leads fight for poetic justice

FROM STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ANDRE CAMARA

Commander John Grieve will head a staff of 97 handling terrorist investigations across the country

A WATERCOLOURIST with a taste for Chinese philosophy and American Civil War history was yesterday named as Britain's new national anti-terrorist co-ordinator.

Commander John Grieve, currently director of criminal intelligence at Scotland Yard, will take command of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch SO13 in February and oversee investigations across the country.

Colleagues regard the 49-year-old philosophy and psychology graduate as a shrewd but unconventional policeman. He has been compared to Colin Dexter's cerebral Inspector Morse — he shares a taste for poetry and quotation with the fictional Oxford detective, but is more likely to quote modern American novelists than the Greek classics. Also, he prefers rock and roll to opera.

He studied the American Civil War campaigns in detail for lessons on fighting crime, and believes the campaign against the Apaches in the 1880s could teach policemen how to deal with Britain's criminals. He is not afraid to be controversial. Eighteen months ago he told chief constables the time might now have arrived to consider licensing drug dealers.

Mr Grieve is a weekend painter whose heroes include Whistler. Instead of sending postcards to friends, he gives sketches of places he visits on official duties. On Saturdays he forsakes work for painting classes. His favourite authors include Dostoevsky and Beckett and he is fond of the sayings of Joseph Fouché, Napoleon's chief of intelligence.

After the Yard announced his appointment, Mr Grieve quoted from a speech by Seamus Heaney, the Nobel prize-winning Irish poet, saying: "By its very nature, the atrocious is always with us. We should be prepared for the worst and hope for the best."

He said his new post was "the ultimate detective job — I am pleased to be doing it. It is obviously an extremely worthwhile job."

He takes over a staff of 97 from Commander David Tucker, who is becoming head of security with the supermarket chain Sainsbury. Mr Grieve will assume command at a time when the IRA ceasefire has held for more than a year and his officers will be concentrating on new work. This already includes animal liberation groups and the rise of violence linked to political extremism.

Officers are studying fundamentalists' campaigns in Paris, poison attacks on the Tokyo underground railway and the Oklahoma bombing, for any possible lessons for the British scene.

The appointment of Mr Grieve is seen as an indication that police in Britain accept that the threat from terrorism will continue, whatever happens in Northern Ireland.

Mr Grieve is the son of a Newcastle accountant. A policeman for 30 years, he started on the beat in Clapham and went to Newcastle University where his degree theses included one on football fans and their ability to pick up the beat of chants.

He commanded Bethnal Green in the East End of London, and is also an expert on the crimes of Jack the Ripper. He has risen before dawn to take part in Flying Squad raids and became a Master of Philosopy at Cranfield. He drew up key guidelines on informers, and this year defended the handling of a Yardie informer who was discovered to be involved in armed robbery.

His friends say that one of his favourite quotations is a line from a book by Cormack McCarthy about poverty in the Deep South. The line reads: "There are dragons in the wings of the world."

Subsidy fraud by farmers tops £8m

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH farmers and food producers cheated the common agricultural policy out of more than £8.7 million last year.

The amount of detected fraud has nearly doubled in two years, according to a report yesterday by the National Audit Office on the CAP's Intervention Board, which pays farmers to encourage production or to guarantee prices for products such as beef. Detected fraud in 1992 totalled £4.5 million.

Cases included:

☐ Beef intended as food aid for Romania which ended up on a market stall in Romford, east London. As a result regulations were introduced to make it an offence for unauthorised recipients of surplus food to sell it.

☐ Seventy-two tons of beef for which CAP intervention funding was claimed but which originated in South America;

☐ A dairy farmer who sold milk in excess of his quota allocation for four years without declaring the production. He received a heavy fine.

The audit office has recommended a series of measures to enable the Intervention Board to detect fraud more systematically. The board has introduced a free telephone service to allow informers to disclose suspected irregularities.

Ice proves greater peril than bullets

MEDICAL BRIEFING

KATE ADIE has survived bullets and shrapnel in the war zones of the world without, so far as it is known, suffering serious injury, but she has now been forced to return home after fracturing an ankle when falling on ice in former Yugoslavia.

More than a million people in Britain fall on ice each year. The fractures from which they suffer depend, to some extent, on their age but in general the collar bone, wrist, lower part of the forearm, ankles and hips are most at risk.

Kate Adie was unlucky. Most people who twist their ankles when they fall suffer no more than an inversion sprain, an injury particularly likely to be suffered by those whose ankles tend to turn inwards when they relax and who wear out the outermost part of their shoes. These patients tend to twist their ankles when they lose their balance, and in some cases fall so heavily that they fracture the bones around the ankle.

Percival Pott, an 18th-century surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, was the first to describe fracture dislocations of the ankle, but his description was less than precise and it is uncertain whether he was describing a break in both the bones of the lower leg, the tibia and the fibula, at the ankle or merely a break in the smaller of the two bones, the fibula, which is more common, with a displacement of the ankle bone beneath it.

The main ankle joint, with subsidiary joints in the small bones beneath it, is a complex system capable of multiple movements and linked by strong ligaments which either snap or, if they hold, detach pieces from the main bony structures when subjected to abnormal strains.

A serious fracture of the ankle joint may involve months of disability, and later osteoarthritis of the joint. Even a simple one usually means six to eight weeks in plaster although it is possible to shorten this if surgeons can screw the jigsaw together.

Winter will also bring many breaks to the upper limb. Most elderly people, as they fall, will sustain a Colles's fracture, a break to the lower portion of the bone in the forearm, but young and fit will break the scaphoid in the wrist, and adolescents will fracture their collar bones. The Queen should always be proud that when she fell she fractured her scaphoid, an injury more common in those 40 years her junior.

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Aristocrat faked burglary at country estate where presidents and princes gathered

Brocket faces prison for £4.5m insurance swindle

By Richard Duce

LORD BROCKET, a polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, is facing a prison sentence after admitting his part in a £4.5 million insurance fraud involving his collection of classic cars.

The Old Etonian and former Army officer looked worried in the dock at Luton Crown Court yesterday as Judge Rodwell, QC, adjourned his case for pre-sentencing reports.

The judge told Brocket, owner of the 5,000-acre Brocket Hall estate in Hertfordshire: "I want to make it clear that by ordering a pre-sentence report it doesn't mean you are going to receive anything other than a custodial sentence." Brocket, 43, was told the length of his sentence would be determined by what was in the reports. Brocket, who inherited the estate at the age of 13, was charged as Charles Ronald Nall-Cain.

He appeared in the dock with an employee, Stephen Gwyther, 40, a mechanic, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertsfordshire; Richard Furtado, 41, a classic car salesman, also of Welwyn Garden City; and Michael Campbell-Bowling, 59, a financial consultant, of Fulham, west London. All four men were charged with conspiracy to defraud, alleging that between May 17, 1989, and September 1, 1994, they conspired together and with a fifth man, Mark Caswell, another employee of Brockett, to defraud such persons as could be induced to part with money.

Brocket and Gwyther pleaded guilty to the charge, but Mr Furtado and Mr Campbell-Bowling denied the offence.

Lady Brocket was given a divorce in September

Peter Stage, for the prosecution, then asked Judge Rodwell for 14 days so that a decision could be reached on whether it was in the public interest to proceed with a trial against Mr Furtado and Mr Campbell-Bowling.

The prosecution against Brocket, whose stately home has been used as a film backdrop, followed his claim that there had been a burglary at in May 1991. He had said that four high-value classic cars had been stolen from a showroom on the estate at Lemsford. The cars were a 1952 Ferrari 340 America, a 1955 Ferrari Europe, a Ferrari 195 Sport and a 1960 Maserati Tipo Bird Cage. His entire collection had once been valued at £20 million.

He had incurred huge debts after the house was transformed into a conference centre with a golf course in the grounds.

At the time, Brocket, a father of three, told the press that the thieves had carried out a "professional job" by removing the alarm system. In February this year he was arrested and accused of attempting to deceive his insurers.

After the hearing, Steven Barker, his solicitor, said: "He has pleaded guilty and he has had to live with that decision for some time. He is prepared to go to prison but he is far more concerned with the welfare of his children. It is a sad and unfortunate case."

Brocket's ancestry can be traced back to 5th-century Irish kings. His grandfather bought a baronetcy in 1921. The family motto is The Cat Stroked is Meek.

The Georgian family house was once the home of Viscount Melbourne, Prime Minister during the 1830s, and is where the waltz is said to have been introduced to England.

In the 1980s, after it became a conference centre, Margaret Thatcher, as Prime Minister, greeted Presidents Gorbachev, Reagan and Bush there.

Brocket hired out the hall with its 48 bedrooms and 30 bathrooms for up to £25,000 a day while the family moved into a smaller house on the estate.

Brocket married Isabell Lorenzo, an international model, in Las Vegas in 1982, and they became society's golden couple. He was seen as the dashing aristocrat, she the beautiful heiress; her father was a Cuban businessman who made a fortune in ballpoint pens. As a model, she had earned £10,000 a week.

The marriage became troubled. Lady Brocket reportedly made two suicide attempts and was treated for a nervous breakdown. She sought a divorce on the ground of her husband's unreasonable behaviour. It was granted by the High Court in September.

Yesterday, the judge adjourned the case for 28 days and all four men were granted bail. Brocket is on £30,000 bail and his surety was said to be flying in from America to sign the papers today. The judge ordered that Brocket should be arrested unless the surety was signed in 24 hours.

ALAIN DENIZE

Lord Brocket's classic-car collection was once valued at £20 million. Yesterday he admitted conspiracy to defraud

Passer-by tried to help man with car bomb

A PASSER-BY offered to give a lift to a man planting a home-made bomb under the car of a friend who had been having an affair with his wife.

Robert Graham, a television engineer, was lying on his back under the Mercedes belonging to John Hall when the passer-by asked if he needed any help.

"He thought I was working under the car and offered to give me a hand and that was when I panicked," Graham told a jury at Manchester Crown Court. He said he shoved the "bomb", made from three fireworks and a bag of petrol, into a crevice under the car while it was parked in a dimly lit street and hurriedly left the scene.

Graham said, however, that he never expected the device to explode and wanted it to be discovered so that his wife's lover would "go through the same mental anguish as me". He said: "The affair had gnawed away at me day after day. My intention was to frighten him and get it out of my system."

Graham denies making the explosive device with intent to endanger life but admits a bomb hoax charge. The prosecution alleges that Graham, 45, from Royton, Greater Manchester, made the bomb in revenge after he discovered that his wife of 23 years, Lorraine, had been having an affair with Mr Hall, their next-door neighbour.

The bomb was found when the car went for a service. Mechanics fled in panic and called Army bomb disposal experts. The trial continues.

Private eye slipped up on video assignment

By Paul Wilkinson

A PRIVATE detective's blunder cost Britain's biggest brewer dearly when he tried to videotape a woman the company suspected was claiming damages dishonestly.

The detective was sent to shadow Christine Macdonald, 35, who was injured after slipping on a cellar hatch outside one of its pubs. His film showed her bustling round stores, lifting heavy shopping, and driving her car.

But when Scottish & Newcastle Breweries showed the recording to the mother of five from Middlesbrough on the eve of the court hearing of her negligence claim, she told them: "That's not me." Now the company has agreed an out of court settlement of about £15,000.

Mrs Macdonald slipped on the wet, moss-covered wooden cellar hatch in 1990, damaging her knee. She had to give up work as a care assistant and suffered pain when walking far. She is about to have a carbon implant.

The woman mistaken for Mrs Macdonald was filmed driving to her smart semi-detached home to unload shopping. The real Mrs Macdonald cannot walk fast because of her injury, does not drive, lives in a terraced council house and is unable to lift anything heavy.

She said yesterday: "Their barrister's face was a picture when we pointed out they had filmed the wrong woman . . . It was obviously not me."

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries declined to comment.

Sack awaits worker for night on the tiles

HIGH-FLYERS who responded to an advertisement for an international logistics director found themselves with faces as red as Rudolph's nose yesterday (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The job, based in "the Arctic Circle corridor" required an applicant able to deal with a "mid-winter peak in demand" from a "youthful global customer base".

Those thirtysomethings fluent in corporate-speak faxed off their CVs . . . only to find they had been hoaxed in a festive joke by a Newcastle management consultancy firm, CPCR. The advert, which appeared in the city's evening paper, was how the company envisaged today's human resources departments would draw up a job description for the post of Santa Claus.

Applicants had to be experts at planning and slick distribution "because the entire year's output has to be delivered in just one night". Despite more clues — like unusual corporate transport and the need to be "hairy, and have a jolly, gregarious, interpersonal style and an inside knowledge of chimneys" — some people sent genuine applications.

Mike Cockburn, a consultant with CPCR, said: "We had quite a response. I think most people thought it was a wind-up but there were a few who were caught out."

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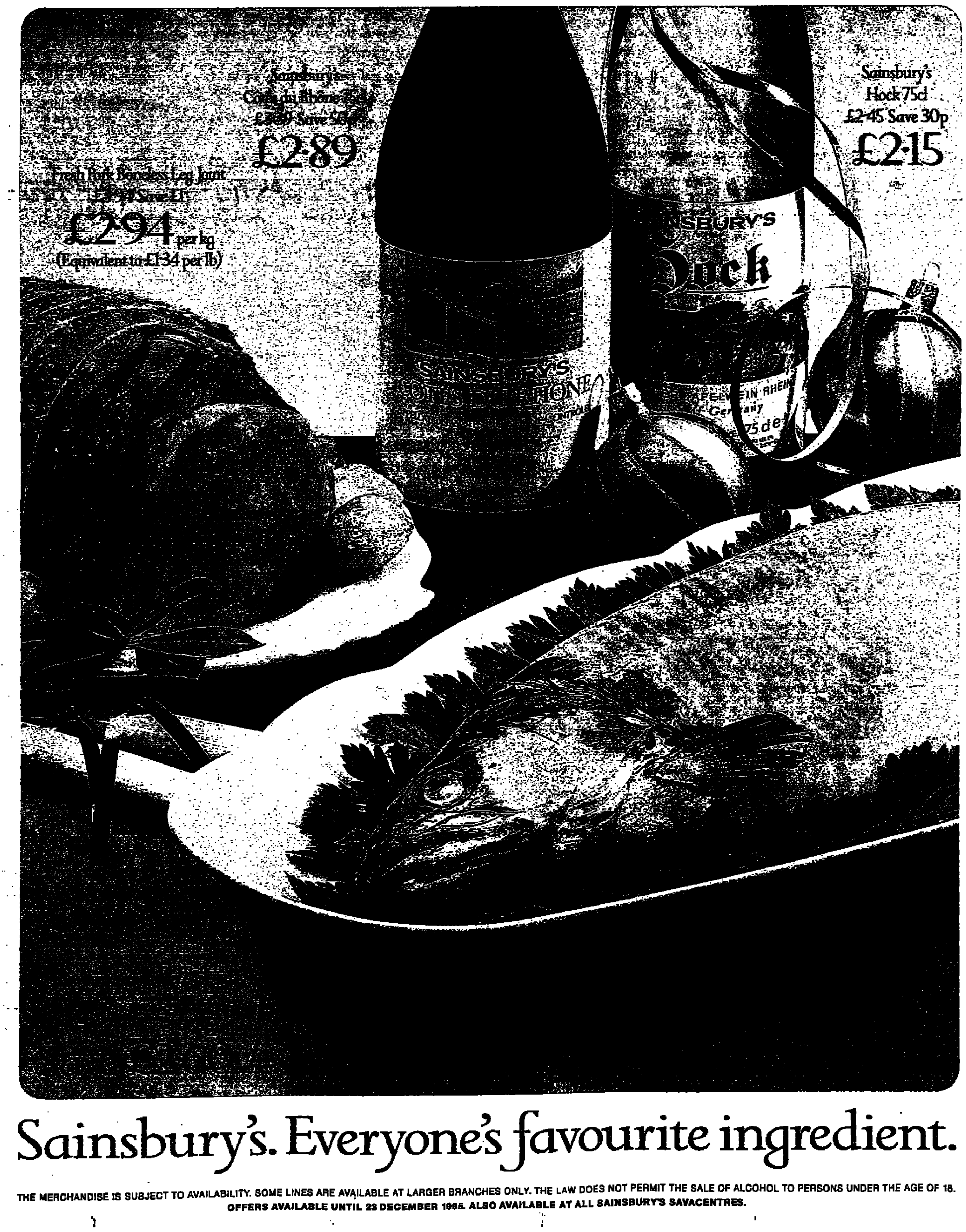

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'Defective regime is wrecking fishing industry'

By Alice Thomson and James Landale

THE common fisheries policy is the diktat of Brussels bureaucrats and their political apparatchiks, Christopher Gill told MPs yesterday.

Mr Gill, the Euro-sceptic MP for Ludlow, said that it was failing to protect fishing stocks, alienating public opinion, making criminals of honest people and encouraging short-term exploitation at the expense of genuine conservation. It was also "perpetuating the situation in which a vital British interest is compromised by the process of qualified majority voting".

Speaking in yesterday's Commons debate, he argued that the Government's case against withdrawal from the policy hung on three points: the time it would take to negotiate satisfactory bilateral agreements with other countries, the absence of strong objections to the policy in the past, and legal problems associated with disengagement.

"I trust that the whole House will recognise that none of these is sufficient in itself to justify the perpetuation of a regime which is so obviously defective in that *it* is precipitating the demise of the British fishing industry."

Opening the debate, **Michael Forsyth**, the Scottish Secretary, told the 17 Tory supporters of an amendment calling for a withdrawal from the common fisheries policy that if they voted with Labour — "a bunch of sell-out merchants" — they risked compromising everything, including the respect of British fishermen. Labour's amendment was "simply a squalid exercise in synthetic patriotism by those whose sole objective is to try to entice some Tories to withhold their support from the Government".

Later, the Government tried to win back the support of Tory MPs with fishing constituencies by announcing the reinstatement of a £12 million capital grant scheme for English harbours that was cut in the Budget. The Harbour Grant scheme and the Marketing and Processing scheme — both worth £2 million a year each until 1998 — were cut despite protests by Tory MPs in the South West.

However, the Euro-sceptics still accused the Government of selling out to Brussels by allowing Spanish boats into UK waters from January 1.

Sir Richard Body (C, Holland with Boston), the remaining "whipless" Euro-rebel, said British fishermen had no confidence in their future, especially after the renegotiation of the fisheries policy in 2002. "They have no idea what will happen to them."

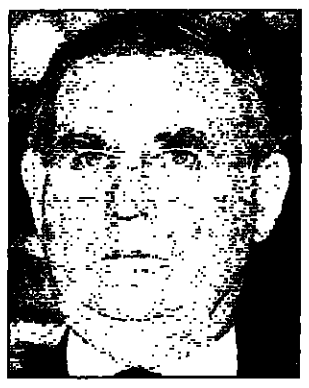
Rupert Allason (C, Torbay), said the Foreign Office had made too many compromises to Brussels. He told Mr Baldry, who will be in Brussels on Thursday: "I urge you, I beg you, fight for Britain's interests — because if you don't, no one else will, certainly not the Foreign Office."

John Wilkinson (C, Ruislip and Northwood) said: "The CFP is a busted flush and we should have no further part of it. If we had a 200-mile limit it would be far more effective and if we fail to conserve the fault will only be ours."

Sir Edward Heath said that a common fisheries policy was needed to conserve European fish stocks. "The Government is quite right to pursue that endeavour. And it can be done successfully."

The former Prime Minister, who rejected a Euro-sceptic claim that he was a "traitor" to his country. He urged potential Tory rebels: "You owe your constituents not only your energy *but* also your judgment. Is it your judgment tonight that this is an event and a matter which justifies you in defeating this Government? That is the crucial question which you've got to answer."

For Labour, **Gavin Strang**, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, accused the Government of failing to represent the British fishing industry in Europe. "It is utterly unacceptable that we should be decommissioning vessels to facilitate additional fishing opportunities around the UK for the fishing industry of one of our European partners. The priority must be to conserve our stocks."



Gill: attack on Brussels diktat

Cricket facing US challenge

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday inspired dreams of England's cricketers beating the West Indies in a Test series, a feat last accomplished in 1969.

The Foreign Secretary accepted that devotion to cricket among youngsters in the Caribbean is being eroded by the growing domination of American sports there.

Jim Lester, Tory MP for Broxtowe, complained to Mr Rifkind that the BBC World Service's Test match coverage is being sidelined by the success of the US broadcaster CNN. "We need to look very carefully at the way we can preserve the Commonwealth culture, particularly for young people," he said. "When they start playing basketball and baseball instead of cricket in the West Indies, you know something's going wrong."

Mr Rifkind replied: "I very strongly agree with you."

Mr Lester, who recently made a fact-finding visit to the Caribbean with members of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, joined other Tories to press for greater funding of BBC World Service radio and television to boost British influence. "In the Caribbean, virtually every input into that society is American," he said. "They can't even watch the Commonwealth Games on television."

Mr Rifkind said that the planned £5.4 million, or 20 per cent, cut in Foreign Office funding next year would not harm the World Service's broadcasting output. "Our admiration for the World Service should not lead us to assume they are to be insulated from the normal, rigours of financial discipline."

No safe bets on Major's election date decision

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

In hindsight, general elections always seem to have been held on the only possible day. Beforehand, there is often enormous uncertainty. A wide variety of possible dates is usually considered by the Prime Minister of the day.

Margaret Thatcher called the 1983 and 1987 elections, in each case with a year to go in the life of the Parliaments, only after virtually being pushed into the announcement by her advisers. Of course, she wanted to bind the Cabinet to the decision, but she also wanted to consider all options in exhaustive discussion.

John Major was the same. April 9 now looks the ideal date for his 1992 victory, after the legislation approving the council tax had been approved by Parliament and after Norman Lamont had produced his Budget with a 20p starting rate of income tax. But in *Too Close To Call*, Sarah Hogg and Jonathan Hill reveal how a series of dates was considered, from late spring 1991 onwards. There was even talk, quickly dismissed, of recalling Parliament on December 27 so as to hold an election on January 23. Almost every other Thursday from then onwards was debated.

The choice in 1996-97 is equally complicated. The options are viewed in a note by Andrew Lansley, former head of the Conservative Research Department, and Paul Wheeler, Labour's elections co-ordinator until a month ago, of the Public Policy Unit, a firm of political consultants. As I argued last Thursday, the Tories are unlikely to be forced into an early election as a result of further by-election losses removing their majority. Governments can survive for some time without an overall majority, especially since it does not look in the interests of the Ulster Unionists to exchange their influence over Mr Major for a majority Labour government.

Mr Lansley and Mr Wheeler identify five possible dates: October 10 next year (after the holidays, but avoiding the party conferences); November 14 (launched on the back of the Tory conference); December 12 (after an early tax-cutting Budget); April 4, 1997 (coinciding with the first date when Budget tax changes take effect); and May 1 (which the authors note is "the preferred date among Conservatives generally and the party organisation"). The latter date would follow the first full month of implementation of tax changes and coincide with the county council elections.

The Tory party organisation and the manifesto will be ready from next summer. But the only argument for one of the 1996 dates is if the Tories manage a dramatic recovery in the opinion polls, narrowing the gap with Labour to a single figure, and also if there is a favourable political background provided by, say, a breakthrough in the Northern Ireland peace talks or by the European inter-governmental conference. All these look long shots. There is no evidence yet of any sustained pick up in Tory poll ratings. Moreover, as the psephologist Robert Waller has pointed out, the Tories face very big losses in the council elections next May, probably more than half the seats they are defending, since comparison will be with the very good Tory results in the elections fought a month after the 1992 general election.

As Lansley and Wheeler argue, Mr Major will face a dilemma in the early autumn of next year about whether to take the political initiative for an election. In 1978-79, James Callaghan waited, and Labour probably did worse as a result. In 1991-92, Mr Major was cautious, and was justified. But he has been bold, notably in forcing the leadership issue six months ago. My money is still on 1997, and May 1, but Mr Major will still have plenty of earlier dates pencilled into his diary.

PETER RIDDELL

Only eight more unitary authorities backed

By Ian Murray

THE commission in charge of redrawing the map of shire England recommended the creation of only eight more unitary councils yesterday, dashing John Gummer's hopes of a radical change in local government.

The eight are the only ones approved from a list of 21 sent to the Local Government Commission in June by the Environment Secretary. He was so disappointed then with the low number of unitary authorities recommended by the commission that he sacked its chairman, Sir John Banham, and ordered his replacement, Sir David Cooksey, to do another review.

If Parliament accepts these final recommendations only 46 unitary authorities will be established and services for almost half the population will continue to be administered by the old two-tier system. The eight are Blackburn, Blackpool, the merged Kent towns of Rochester and Gillingham, Halton and Warrington in Cheshire, Peterborough, Thurrock in Essex and The Wrekin in Shropshire.

Among those rejected were Exeter, Norwich, Gloucester and Northampton, which ran their own affairs for centuries before being absorbed into their counties by the 1974 local government review. Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, said he was profoundly disappointed that the county towns had lost their case, adding: "The whole process of local government reorganisation has been a mess."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to environment ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on the common fisheries policy. In the Lords: debates on Lords procedure and on the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill, committee stage. **TODAY** in the Commons: backbench debates on the proposed international passenger station at Stratford, east London; schools in Broadstairs; the future of Knockhill racetrack. Scottish questions will be followed by a debate on the Humber Bridge (Debts) Bill, all stages. In the Lords: debates on the increase in litigation and consequences for the professions; the case for a statutory limitation on cheque-book journalism; the Western European Time Bill.

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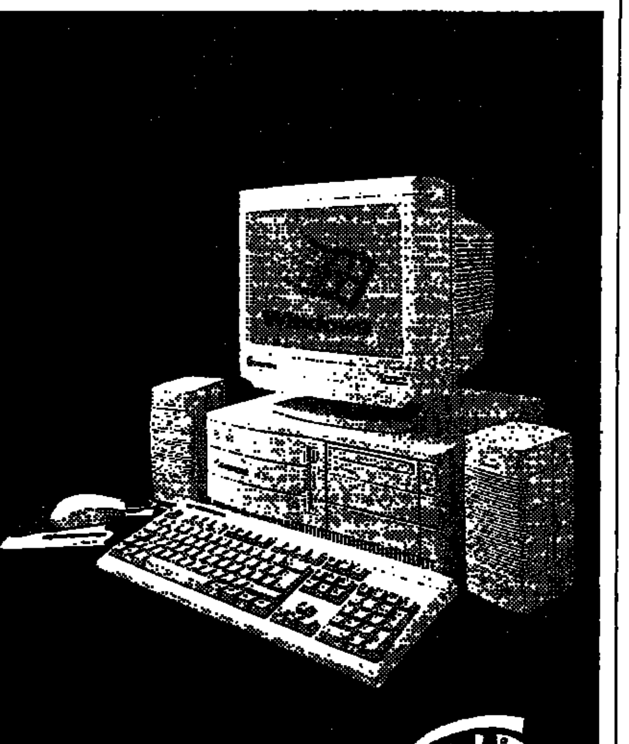

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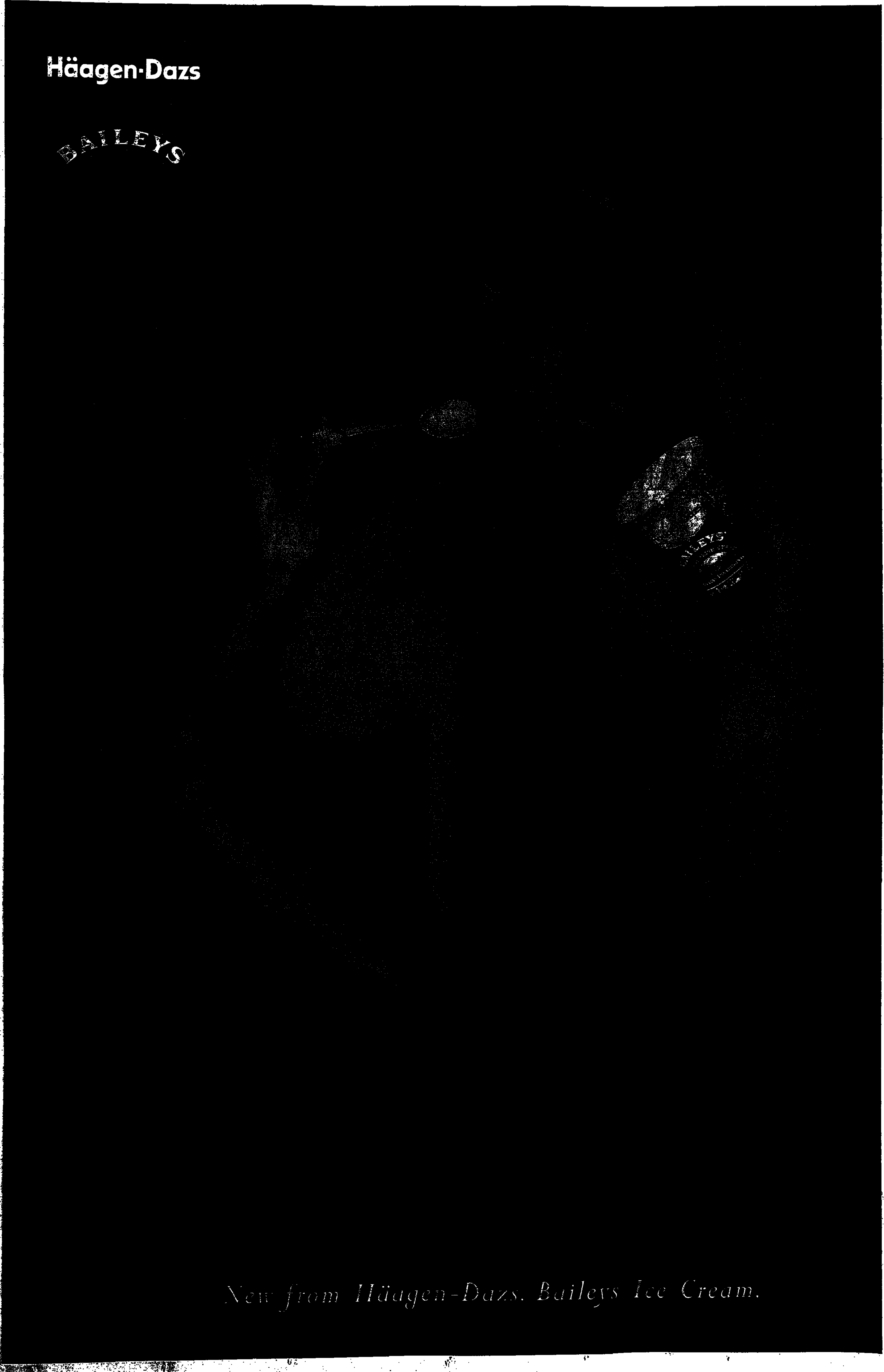

Burden of Bosnia mission taken up by British general

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO formally takes command of peace operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina this morning, beginning a unique mission in the alliance's history which includes the objective of withdrawing from former Yugoslavia 365 days from today.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the British officer who will be operational commander of the 60,000 ground troops taking part in the peace implementation mission, arrived in Sarajevo yesterday to prepare for his historic takeover from the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor).

The transition will be marked this morning at a parade at Sarajevo airport, during which the UN flag will be lowered and the Nato flag will be raised. The most senior Nato officer at today's parade will be Admiral Leighton Smith, the US commander of Nato's Allied Forces Southern Europe, who will be in overall command of Operation Joint Endeavour, with headquarters in Sarajevo.

General Walker, who will be in day-to-day control of the Nato-led troops, will be based initially in Kiseljak, outside Sarajevo, as commander of Nato's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps headquarters, which is running the peace implementation mission.

General Walker arrives in Sarajevo yesterday

General Walker, 51, said that Nato had arrived in Bosnia in a "very deliberate and non-aggressive way". He said: "We are here to implement a peace agreement which has been given the consent of the parties here at the very highest level."

As Nato got ready for the peace opertion, France last night called for Europe to be given a formal collective voice within a "renovated" Nato alliance, and said the Western European Union (WEU) defence grouping should establish its own military command. The proposals, made by Charles Millon, the French Defence Minister, are likely to be greeted with suspicion by Britain and America.

In Brussels, Javier Solana took over as Nato Secretary-General and pledged to expand the alliance eastwards.

Richard Holbrooke: in his diplomatic swansong, he hopes to repeat his success with the Bosnia peace deal by trying to resolve the ethnic divisions in Cyprus

Wall Street bids for peacemaker

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

RICHARD HOLBROOKE, the aggressive and high-profile American diplomat who negotiated the Bosnia peace agreement signed in Paris last week, is leaving the Clinton Administration early next year to spend more time with his wife and family in New York, and may return to Wall Street.

Before his resignation, however, the State Department's outspoken Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs will next month devote his intimidating techniques of negotiation to the divided island of Cyprus.

"I will leave early next year, behind my original schedule. I am not walking away. I will leave with total support for this Administration, and the policies I was part of."

Mr Holbrooke, 54, joined the foreign service after he had been turned down for a job on *The New York Times*. His first two marriages failed. His third wife is Kati Marton, a Hungarian-born writer.

It was well known that Mr Holbrooke had become frustrated with Washington bureaucracy soon after his arrival at the State Department after being US Ambassador to Bonn. But his high-profile appointment as chief negotiator in the Balkans last August appeared to have given fresh enthusiasm to the highly ambitious diplomat.

An investment banker before joining the Administration, he has been talking to several firms about returning to Wall Street, but expects to spend more time travelling and writing. "My wife worried that I was spending more time with Haris Silajdzic [the Bosnian Prime Minister] than with her," he said.

Rarely popular with colleagues, who resented his heavy-handed approach, Mr Holbrooke is nevertheless credited as the only man capable of bringing the warring presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia to the table at Dayton, Ohio, and twisting their arms enough to initial an accord. The Washington rumour mill says there is talk of a Nobel peace prize.

His replacement is expected to be John Kornblum, who is an arms control expert and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian affairs.

Bosnian refugees dread command to go back home

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

A SKINNY Christmas tree stands in the foyer waiting to be dressed; young men smelling of aftershave and squeezed into Sunday suits stumble down the staircase on their way to a court hearing; girls in plaits talk earnestly to Barbie dolls about their missing fathers.

Refugee centres are full of small, dramatic episodes, and the Lichtenberg house in Berlin, after the signing of the Dayton peace accord, is no exception.

A cheerful German nurse, immunising children, clucks at a nine-year-old girl: "You will be looking forward to going home any day now." To most Bosnians stranded in institutions throughout Europe that smacks of a threat. Slowly the pressure is growing to return those stranded by the Bosnian war.

Four hundred thousand refugees from former Yugoslavia are living in Germany, and some have been here for over three years. More than 300 of them, Bosnian Muslims in the main, are in the rundown Lichtenberg hostel.

Each has a Christmas dilemma. Alina, with a lined face that could make her anything between 26 and 46 years old, came to Berlin from eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina with her three children. "I watched as my husband was shot right in front of me," she said. The children looked on as she dug his grave. She was given a safe-conduct pass on condition that she made over the house to a Serb.

Thousands of Bosnian Muslims from "ethnically cleansed" areas went through a similar process; Alina knows she is not unique and does not embellish her story. Now she is in trouble: Alina will be in one of the first batches to go back since she has only Serbian identity papers. "They think we are Serbs because we have Serbian passports."

The same problem confronts Bisera from Banja Luka. She had to sign over her house and shop to a Serb family in return for a Serb passport. That did not prevent her internment in a Serb-run camp.

From March 31, refugees from former Yugoslavia will no longer be given special privileges in Germany. They must either apply for political asylum — with a good chance that they will be speedily rejected — or return. The first effect of Dayton has been a rapid increase in refugees from Bosnia, anxious to secure special status before the rules are tightened.

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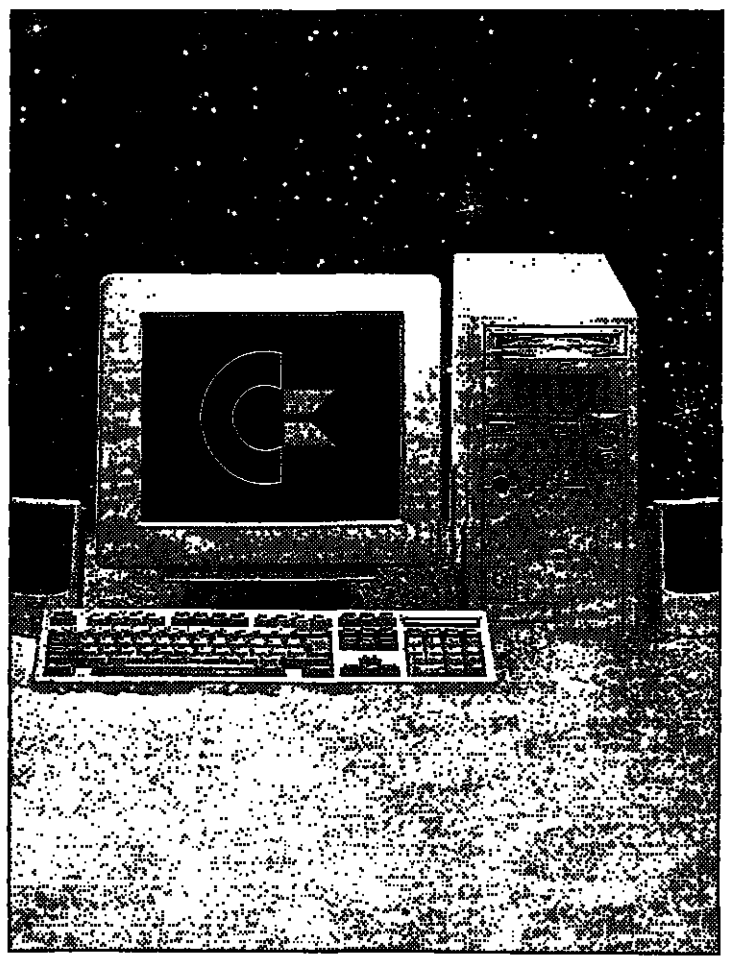

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Rabin video stirs doubts on amateur cameraman

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

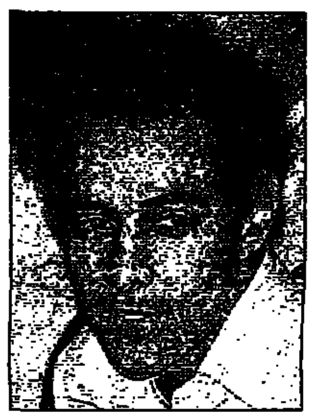
THE first public screening of the only film of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination shocked Israelis last night with its dramatic exposure of appalling security lapses and raised more questions about the filming by a 37-year-old amateur cameraman from Tel Aviv.

In an exclusive interview with *Yediot Aharonot*, which, along with the Channel Two commercial television network, paid nearly $400,000 (£260,000) for rights to the video, the camerman was revealed as Ronni Kempler, a civil service accountant and reserve army security officer.

Asked to explain why he had filmed in the darkened parking lot before the shooting took place and why he had let his camera linger on Yigal Amir, the self-confessed assassin, before he shot the Prime Minister, Mr Kempler claimed that even from his rooftop vantage point the man had looked suspicious.

Israelis who read the interview queried why, if that were the case, he had not alerted the security forces at the Tel Aviv peace rally.

Mr Kempler, the existence of whose film was covered up by the authorities for nearly a month, said that, using a camera borrowed from a friend, he had focused on Mr Amir because he looked "like a potential killer". The 25-year-old law student, an opponent of the peace process with the Palestinians, sat some of the time on the edge of a flower bed and also loitered unchallenged near the Prime Minister's car.



Amir: might not plead guilty to assassination

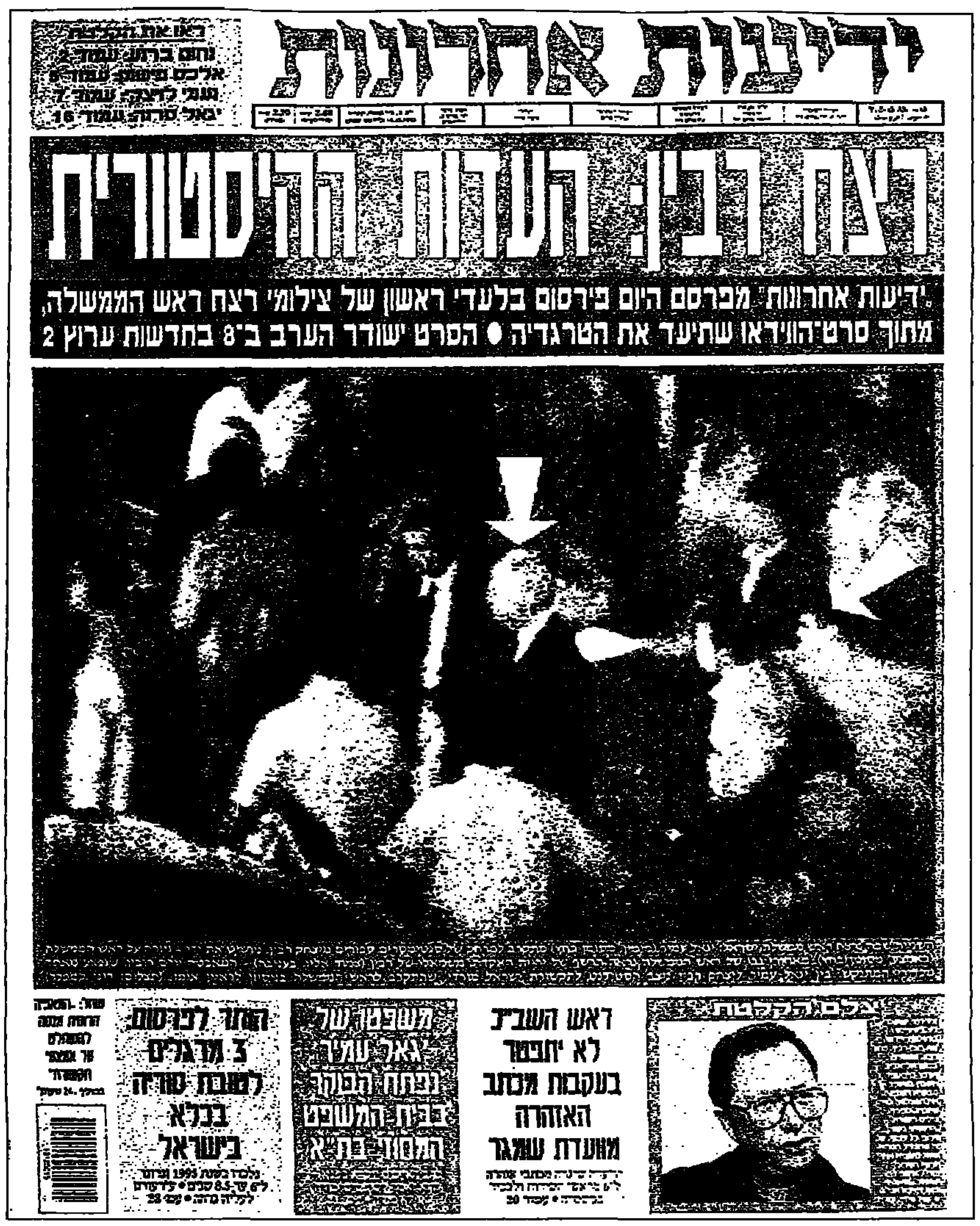
"At first he looked suspicious to me as he sat by the plants," Mr Kempler said. "He had a prominent presence, there is so much talk about political murder, about attacks — and he looked like a potential killer. Afterwards I told myself that he was probably an undercover policeman, because otherwise the police would have dealt with him."

Mr Kempler's interview increased concern among many Israelis convinced that in some way their much vaunted security services were involved in the assassination. It has already been reported that Mr Amir acted as an Israeli agent abroad and had links with a known agent for the Shin Bet internal security service.

Mr Kempler told *Yediot Aharonot*: "The whole time I had the feeling something bad would happen — there was anxiety in the air. Maybe because in the reserves I deal in security, I am more sensitive to that. Right away, I told myself that it cannot be. There are so many security guards here . . . The camera shows the security forces as if something is not quite right."

The video shows the gunman stalking Rabin until his outstretched left arm nearly touches the Prime Minister — much closer than he was seen to get during the reconstruction of the crime set up by the police. There are the flashes from two shots and the Prime Minister drops to the ground covered by his bodyguards.

Yesterday Mr Amir appeared in the Tel Aviv district court. His trial was adjourned until January 23, when he is expected to be asked to enter a plea. Despite his confession, Mr Amir's lawyers have said that he might not plead guilty.



ידיעות אחרונות

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'ידיעות אחרונות' מפרסם היום פירסום בלעדי ראשון של צילומי רצח ראש הממשלה,
מתוך סרט־הווידאו שתיעד את הטרגדיה • הסרט ישודר הערב ב־8 בחדשות ערוץ 2

ראש השב"כ
לא יוחמר
בעקבות מכתב
האזהרה
מוועדת שמגר

Yediot Aharonot with a photograph yesterday from Ronni Kempler's video, showing Yigal Amir shooting Yitzhak Rabin in the back and the flash from the gun behind the Israeli Prime Minister's shoulder

Minister's Bethlehem visit called off

Jerusalem: The delayed handover of Bethlehem from Israeli to Palestinian control was further soured yesterday when an argument over security forced the cancellation of an Israeli minister's visit (Christopher Walker writes).

Bethlehem city officials said that Elias Freij, the Christian Mayor, was angered when Israeli security officials ordered all Arab workers to leave the municipality building before the arrival of Uzi Baram, the Israeli Tourism Minister.

"The meeting was postponed because the behaviour of the security people was unjustified and was humiliating," said Mr Freij. The Mayor had earlier criticised Israel for delaying its withdrawal from December 18 until tomorrow. Israel claimed that the delay was necessary in order to complete a by-pass road for Jewish settlers who will remain in the occupied West Bank.

Mr Baram later confirmed that Israeli security services had asked for very harsh measures to be taken and said that, since he had no control over the security arrangements, he called off the trip.

China excludes Patten from handover party

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PEKING will not permit Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, to participate in the final ceremonies handing the colony back to China on June 30, 1997.

Wang Guisheng, director of Hong Kong Affairs in the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told Joseph Wong, Secretary for Manpower and Education, in Peking last weekend that the final ceremony "is going to be officiated by the British and Chinese Governments: no third party can have a place".

A Chinese official based in the colony said that as "the triple violator" of past British-Chinese agreements, for which Peking has ostracised Mr Patten since 1993, the Governor has created a situation in which his role in the handover ceremony "has always been a contentious one between the two sides".

Peking and London have established a committee to begin formal discussions of the 1997 ceremony, but a senior British official in Hong Kong denied that the matter of the Governor's role had been raised. He noted that the senior officials of the Hong Kong Government would attend the ceremony "in full force" and Mr Patten would play a key role.

"Of course, it's a matter for the two sovereigns," he said. "If the Prince of Wales and the Foreign Secretary were here they would outrank the Governor, but he would clearly be one of the triumvirate."

The matter is likely to be raised by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, when he flies to Peking next month after visiting Hong Kong for three days. "But it's barely worth discussing," said another senior official. "The Chinese position is stupid and absurd. If the Chinese do not want to come to the party on the evening of June 30, they can hold another party of their own some other time."

He believed that this latest insult to Mr Patten is part of a new technique. "They assure senior Hong Kong officials visiting Peking that their future is bright and there is nothing to worry about. Then they attack the Governor."

This was a reference to an event two weeks ago in Peking when Chen Zuo'er, the deputy director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, told K. C. Kwong, Hong Kong's Treasury Secretary, that Mr Patten was like a reckless Formula One racing driver who could kill all around him. When the Foreign Office summoned the Chinese Ambassador to complain, the embassy issued a statement that it recognised Mr Patten as Britain's minister plenipotentiary in Hong Kong.

Hugh Davies, who represents Britain in negotiations with Peking over Hong Kong, said: "The Governor of Hong Kong is a very important member of the British Government. If there is any disagreement between the two sides on the ceremony, it is on the role of the Governor."

Although there are certain to be further furious British objections to China's slight to Mr Patten, when the handover actually occurs it may be that Mr Patten will be visible but not play an active role in the ceremony. This might accommodate both sides.

The recent renewal of abuse of the Governor is part of a wider pattern of Chinese acts during the past two months, designed to show that Peking regards itself as the de facto master of Hong Kong's destiny. China recently reiterated that the Legislative Council will be suspended on July 1, 1997, and the Bill of Rights emasculated on the same day.

Journalist loses visa

Hong Kong: A German reporter who enraged Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, referring to him as a "dictator", was told yesterday he can no longer work in China (Jonathan Mirsky writes). Henrik Bork, 34, of the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, was denied an extension of his journalist's visa. The Bonn Foreign Ministry reported Peking as saying it had never liked his reporting and it had always been negative.

Yemen planes 'buzz' island seized by Eritrea

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A LULL in the confrontation over a small island at the mouth of the Red Sea was broken yesterday when Yemeni planes flew sorties over the island seized last week by Eritrea.

Yemeni MiG and Sukhoi fighters were reported to be wheeling over Greater Hamish, one of two islands close to the Bab el-Mandab channel at the Red Sea's southern entrance. Eritrea and Yemen both claim sovereignty, and the dispute led to three days of fighting last week that left six Eritrean and three Yemeni soldiers dead. The Eritreans also claim to have shot down a Yemeni helicopter. A ceasefire was announced on Monday.

The confrontation meant that Yemen, itself racked by civil war last year, was briefly engaged in hostilities on two fronts. Last week Saudi Arabia accused Yemeni tribesmen of resorting to arms in another clash with Saudi border guards in a disputed area that has led to frequent skirmishes since a full-scale border war 60 years ago.

Eritrea has asked the International Court of Justice to decide ownership of the Greater and Lesser Hamish islands, and accused "troublemakers" of provoking the fighting.

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Rains bring muddy joy to hippos

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

FROM hippos at the Kruger National Park to farmers in the Northern Transvaal, the rains sweeping drought-stricken South Africa over the past month appear to have brought unexpected joy to man and beast.

Christo van der Linde, Kruger National Park public relations officer, said the rains had transformed the game reserve. "The hippos are very happy because they are able to wallow freely again," he said. "While the weather was dry and hot, the hippos got very grumpy, but that has all changed. In fact, everyone is smiling."

The rutting season had started several weeks early, and he attributed this to the change in the weather. "There are so many baby warthogs running around, the hyenas are going to have a great Christmas feast."

In Bushpark Ridge, 60 miles north of Kruger Park in the farthest reaches of the Northern Transvaal, Lungu Masuku, editor of *Bush Telegraph News*, said traditional tribal celebrations had already begun, after the first rains for three years triggered an outpouring of joy.

In the next few days tribal chiefs from the region will gather for a huge feast where several oversized beasts will be slaughtered and traditional dances performed to honour ancestors. "It will be a rowdy occasion with a lot of drinking and fighting," Mr Masuku said. "It is considered a good thing to fight when you are drunk and happy."

Leading article, page 17

£160m home loans rip-off is revealed
Building societies overcharge

Sunday Times 3.12.95. From an article by Paul Nuki and Rupert Steiner.

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Militia bombardment rains destruction on Kabul

*The campaign of shelling by the Taleban is the latest agony to be suffered by Afghans, **Michael Dynes** reports*

HOSPITALS, schools and mosques are being targeted in a shelling campaign against the residential areas of Kabul by a radical Islamic movement seeking to overthrow President Rabbani.

Thousands of civilians are being killed and mutilated by the Taleban militia, a fundamentalist student movement led by Mullah Omar, which is besieging Kabul's estimated one million population from the west, south and east. Rockets, mortars, and 500lb parachute bombs which explode above the ground, showering shrapnel over a wide area, have been raining down on the city since the renewal of fighting two months ago.

The current bombardment is the latest agony suffered by the Afghan people during 16 years of civil war and anarchy, which has led to the disintegration of the country and the destruction of Kabul. After ten years of Soviet occupation, and six years of civil war, more than 85 per cent of the city has been reduced to rubble. Vast areas of the city are a reminder of the 1945 bombing of Dresden.

The streets are littered with burnt-out tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other military hardware. During the Cold War, America and the former Soviet Union poured billions of dollars worth of weapons into Afghanistan, giving the primitive armies some of the world's most sophisticated arms.

More than one million people have died in the fighting since the start of the Soviet occupation in 1979. This excludes the estimated 100,000 deaths in Kabul during fighting between mujahidin factions after the fall of the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah in 1992.

The fighting has created more than five million refugees, one million widows and half a million orphans out of Afghanistan's 17 million population, and has destroyed the fragile economy. There is no electricity in the capital, and 90 per cent of buildings are without heat. People have been burning the country's famous carpets in order to keep warm.

Kabul is now the most heavily mined city in history. An estimated six to seven million mines have been laid by successive governments and Mujahidin factions, and minefields are being created faster than the old ones are being cleared.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which runs two hospitals in Kabul and supplies four others, calculates that some 50,000 people have lost limbs after stepping on landmines. Many are young children, rummaging for wood.

Most Afghans hoped that the fighting would stop after the fall of Mr Najibullah, but Kabul and other cities, which had remained largely unaffected by the previous fighting, rapidly became battlegrounds for mujahidin factions. By the autumn of 1994, the Taleban suddenly emerged from the chaos, and rapidly swept through the south of the country. Declaring themselves a "neutral security force", they set about disarming local commanders and imposing *sharia* law.

Rabbani: presides over city of mines and ruins

The Taleban, thought to number some 40,000 fighters, took the southern city of Kandahar in November last year. They have used it as a base from which to launch assaults on other parts of the country, almost half of which is now under their control.

By February, the Taleban entered western Kabul. Their advance was stopped only after two weeks of ferocious street fighting, which left thousands of fighters on both sides dead and reduced vast areas of the city to ruins.

Although Mr Rabbani's forces pushed the Taleban 20 miles beyond the city limits, they have failed to repel them beyond rocketing range, despite nightly bombardments by government jets. All attempts at international mediation have failed. The Government and the Taleban now face each other in an uneasy stand-off, which is claiming the lives of countless civilians, in a conflict all but ignored by the rest of the world.

The British Red Cross today launches an emergency appeal for the situation in Afghanistan. Address: British Red Cross Afghanistan Appeal, Freepost, London SW1X 7BR. Credit card donations: 0171 201 5010.

Leading article, page 17

MICHAEL DYNES

Jade Maiwand, one of the main streets in Kabul's old city centre, has been destroyed in ferocious street fighting between government forces and the Taleban militia. Known to Western tourists as the street of a thousand carpet shops, it was turned to rubble in March

No hiding place in shattered capital

By Michael Dynes

WE HEARD the first shell land in the distance during a visit to some bombed-out Kabul apartment blocks inhabited by refugees, and thought nothing of it. But as we made our way back to the Red Cross headquarters, Christopher Squires, the ITN cameraman, spotted bodies lying in the road.

As we approached the crowd we saw two bodies, one of which had been vaporised from the waist down. A large pool of blood lay congealing on the road, and body parts were scattered everywhere. While the ITN cameraman spoke to a group of onlookers, we heard the tell-tale *whoosh* of another rocket as it landed 20 yards away. The explosion shook our vehicle and a flash of panic shot across the face of our Afghan interpreter.

Everyone raced for cover: we had found ourselves in the middle of a salvo of Taleban shells. Had the second one not fallen on soft ground, the toll would have been much higher. The ITN cameraman, showered in mud, checked himself to make sure he had not been hit. We all dashed to the vehicle to get out of the area, knowing more shells were on the way.

We made our way to the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital where the injured had been taken. In the waiting room we saw Abdul Aziz, 24, writhing in agony. Pieces of shrapnel had hit him in his upper and lower right leg, his abdomen was bleeding profusely, and his right shoulder had been blown off.

The doctors said they could not give him any painkillers because they did not want his bodily systems to slow down. As he lay there, screaming for his son, his tearful wife waited in the adjacent corridor.

Some days later, we discovered that he had survived but would lose the whole arm.

Five shells fell that day, killing four people and injuring six. In adjoining streets, life went on as normal. It was just another day in Kabul.

Ministers to devise Nigeria strategy

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

THE Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, will join seven fellow Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in talks in London today aimed at finding ways to put pressure on Nigeria and other Commonwealth countries violating political and human rights.

The first meeting of the Commonwealth action group, set up at the organisation's summit in Auckland, New Zealand, last month, will be at the Commonwealth secretariat. The eight members are the Foreign Ministers of Britain, Canada, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe. They will plot a strategy for enforcing on all 52 members the Harare declarations, which bind them to a code of democratic and civil rights.

Nigeria, suspended from membership after the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other activists accused of responsibility for the murder of Ogoni leaders, will be the main topic. The ministers will consider freezing the overseas assets of the military leaders, tightening visa restrictions and perhaps imposing an oil embargo.

☐ **Lagos:** Nigerian police yesterday fired teargas to disperse hundreds of opposition demonstrators gathered here to demand an immediate return to democracy, witnesses said. One said police fired teargas after someone distributed leaflets which read "We demand democracy now" at Yaba bus station in Lagos. No casualties or arrests were reported. *(Reuter)*

Communists build on lead in Russian polls

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

RUSSIA'S victorious Communist Party yesterday strengthened its dominant lead in Sunday's parliamentary elections, as results suggested that the hard Left could secure a third of the seats in the new assembly.

With two-thirds of the votes counted by yesterday evening, the Communist lead continued to grow as the party's percentage of the nationwide ballot remained stable and it surged ahead in the single-mandate constituencies.

Under Russia's complicated electoral system, half the members of the 450-seat Duma, the Lower House of parliament, are elected on party lists and the other half are selected from local constituencies. Parties need at least 5 per cent of the popular vote to be admitted to the Duma.

Final results are not expected until today, but by last night the Communists had secured 21.5 per cent of the vote in the party race and 49 seats at constituency level. Their share of the vote is likely to rise again when the ballots are counted from outlying rural areas, traditionally Communist strongholds.

In a further boost to their prospects, several smaller left-wing parties secured mandates from local constituency races, which was likely to give the hardliners scores of extra Duma seats.

"In all probability we will have 30 per cent of the votes in the federal [party] list, and a little bit more than that in single-seat constituencies," Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, said.

Pravda, the once mighty daily newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party which has recently fallen on hard times, could not conceal its delight and compared the spread of Western democratic values in Russia to the Aids virus. "The nation has demonstrated strong immunity against the virus of anti-communism," it said.

The ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Vladimir Zhirinovsky maintained second place with 10.8 per cent of the vote. While it only picked up one extra seat from the single constituency ballots, other nationalists fared better; Aleksandr Lebed's Congress of Russian Communities managed to secure five seats.

Although the anti-reformist block of left-wing and nationalist parties is expected to dominate parliament they will be short of the two-thirds majority needed to challenge seriously the authority of the Kremlin.

In spite of the size of the Communist victory and calls for his resignation, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, vowed that no major changes would be made to his Government or his policy of economic reform and stabilisation.

"Changes, shifts, sackings — nothing of the sort will happen," said Mr Chernomyrdin, whose Our Home is Russia party had secured 9.6 per cent of the vote by last night. "Personnel changes have routinely taken place and will take place in future but they have nothing to do with this [election]."

Arctic victory leaves Kozyrev out in the cold at ministry

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow

ANDREI KOZYREV, the Russian Foreign Minister, was on the verge of resignation last night after he confirmed his victory in a local election constituency in the Arctic city of Murmansk.

Mr Kozyrev, the longest serving minister in the Yeltsin Government, said he planned to meet the President in the next few days to discuss his future. Under new rules, parliamentary deputies are no longer allowed to be government ministers. Taking his seat and resigning as minister would be an honourable way for Mr Kozyrev to leave the administration.

"I have my own thoughts but I feel it is inappropriate to announce this decision," Mr Kozyrev said yesterday after meeting Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador.

Mr Kozyrev said that his personal victory in Murmansk, where he defeated Lyubov Zhirinovskaya, the sister of the extreme nationalist leader, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, was a sign that reformers could win the argument over the opposition. But he said the heavy vote for the Communists was an alarm bell. Russians had voted more "against" than "for", he said, and the administration should "analyse honestly" what they had voted against.

A shift in foreign policy will most likely mean a more aggressive stand against the expansion of Nato into Eastern Europe. Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party, has made that one of his main themes in the past two days.

Westendorp: not likely to commit any gaffes

New voice of Spain takes over

From Edward Owen in Madrid

CARLOS WESTENDORP was sworn in yesterday by King Juan Carlos as the new Spanish Foreign Minister, replacing Javier Solana, who was in Brussels to take up his post as Secretary-General of Nato. Señor Westendorp, 58, a career diplomat, was formerly Madrid's Secretary of State for European Union Affairs.

His appointment was welcomed by foreign diplomats and by staff at the Foreign Ministry. There had been fears that Felipe González, the Prime Minister, would choose a Socialist Party hardliner in the run-up to the general election in March.

But a government source said yesterday that Señor González had chosen Señor Westendorp because of his detailed grasp of the immediate foreign policy issues. Three months would have been needed for an outsider to take the reins, and Señor Westendorp is unlikely to commit any gaffes in the pre-poll period.

"I will continue the work of the Government," he declared, indicating that there would be no changes in Spain's policy, including its claim to Gibraltar.

Belgian transport strikes cause havoc

By Charles Bremner

TRANSPORT services in Belgium were crippled yesterday when railway workers and staff at Sabena, the state airline, staged strikes against cutbacks imposed in a government drive to curb the country's sprawling national debt.

In the latest of a series of strikes by a disgruntled state sector that echo the recent unrest in France, workers at Sabena halted most of the airline's 300 daily flights, causing chaos at Brussels airport. Rail services were severely disrupted by an unannounced stoppage, mainly by workers in Wallonia, the French-speaking southern region, against a planned ten-year overhaul of the loss-making company. Passengers on the Eurostar service to London were driven by bus across the border to catch the train at Lille, where rail services are again running after the three-week French strike.

The airline and railway staff are angry that their employers have announced austerity plans without the consultation which is traditional in the consensual Belgian system of labour relations. Last week about 50,000 civil servants and other public-sector workers marched through central Brussels in protest against a pay freeze planned by the Government of Jean-Luc Dehaene to staunch the losses in the state sector.

The unrest over the austerity package, due to be announced next month, is generating new tension between the country's two linguistic communities. In the latest flare-up, Johan van Hecke, the chairman of the Flemish Christian Democrat party, one of the members of the government coalition, accused Wallonia of living off the labours of the Flemings.

Mr van Hecke said his party would "not allow Belgium to be fed by Flanders and milked by Wallonia". Flemish resentment of the higher welfare spending on Wallonia has intensified over the past year as the Dehaene Government has begun adding new taxes to bring down the national debt so that Belgium can qualify for European monetary union in 1998.

Paris is saddled with cyclists after stoppage

From Adam Sage in Paris

THOUSANDS of Parisians are continuing to cycle to work even though the strikes are over, and the Metro and railway network are back to normal.

Roads in and around Paris were full yesterday of people pedalling furiously through the exhaust fumes. Many said they had taken to cycling during the three-week stoppage and *had* decided to continue. Corinne Lepage, the French Environment Minister, said in an interview with *Le Figaro*: "The bicycle has become queen, and found, in Paris for instance, an importance that it never had."

However, as Mme Lepage admitted, the city remains a dangerous place for cyclists. Teetering through the traffic on a gleaming blue bicyle yesterday, Frantz Fray, 36, said: "Before the strike I took the Metro, but this is far more efficient." However, he said, if the bicycle were to become a permanent aspect of Parisian life, the authorities had to create proper cycle lanes. "At the moment, the only cycle lanes are in the middle of the road. It's chaos."

France 'to keep checks at borders'

Brussels: According to a Belgian official, France is preparing unilaterally to retain border checks with its six European partners in the Schengen zone at a meeting here today. Paris is expected to say that it is doing so because the bloc has failed to keep drugs, illegal immigration and terrorism under control.

France delayed the planned end to border controls last July 1, using an Article of the Schengen Convention which allows members unilaterally to keep checks for six months. In Paris the French Foreign Ministry declined to say what France's position would be at today's meeting. *(Reuter)*

Abduction hunt

Lugano: Swiss police began a massive search for the kidnappers of Geo Mantegazza, a billionaire property and travel tycoon seized from his office in southern Switzerland on Monday. *(AP)*

Angola crash

Kinshasa: A Zairean passenger aircraft with 136 people on board, most of them Angolans, crashed in northern Angola and all but five were feared dead. Transport Ministry officials said. *(Reuter)*

Somali kidnap

Mogadishu: Gunmen working for General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord, kidnapped Marco Lorenzetti, 35, in a pay dispute with an Italian-based agricultural training organisation.

Christmas bash

Sydney: Santa Claus, handing out sweets in Bourke, 370 miles northwest of Sydney, was forced to flee in a van when about 30 children, aged eight to 13, kicked, punched and pinched him. *(AP)*

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First Lady under fire on Whitewater 'contradictions'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

SENATE Whitewater investigators are homing in on Hillary Clinton after publishing subpoenaed documents on Monday that appeared to contradict her sworn evidence given to federal regulators.

The documents were notes *made by Susan Thomases*, a New York lawyer and one of the First Lady's closest friends, showing that Mrs Clinton did far more legal work for the Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair than she has admitted. Moreover, records of Mrs Clinton's bills to the bank, Madison Guaranty, have vanished from her old *law firm* in Little Rock.

Madison employed Mrs Clinton in the mid-1980s when it was seeking help from officials appointed by her husband, *the* state Governor, to stave off bankruptcy. Its owner, Jim McDougal, was also improperly diverting its funds into the Whitewater development corporation he jointly owned with the Clintons.

Madison collapsed in 1989 at a cost to the taxpayer of $60 million (£39 million), and Republicans on the Senate *Whitewater committee* believe Mrs Clinton must have known what was going on. They also strongly suspect that the First Lady orchestrated a cover-up in the wake of Vincent Foster's apparent suicide in July 1993.

The committee has obtained records showing a flurry of phone calls between Mrs Clinton in Little Rock and Ms Thomases in New York immediately after the discovery of the deputy White House counsel's body, and from Mrs Thomases to White House officials. Mr Foster had been handling Whitewater issues.

Within hours Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, Maggie Williams, Mrs Clinton's Chief of Staff, and Patsy Thomasson, an *aide, had searched his office*. A secret service agent has said that he saw Ms Williams remove files, which she denies. Mr Nussbaum subsequently stopped police and Justice Department officials from searching the office.

The committee has ordered Mr Williams and Ms Thomases three times each to give evidence. Both have repeatedly claimed that they could not recall key conversations. After Ms Thomases's *third appearance on Monday*, Alfonse D'Amato, the Republican chairman, asked the committee's lawyers to determine whether "the level of failure of recollection ... reaches the threshold of deliberate lying", and some Republicans are demanding that Mrs Clinton be summoned.

The Senate is expected to vote today to take the White House to court to obtain subpoenaed records of a 1993 meeting between President Clinton's lawyers and advisers. Republicans believe the participants plotted to foil two Whitewater-related federal investigations using improperly-acquired inside information, an accusation the White House vigorously denies.

Mrs Clinton insisted during *the 1992 presidential* campaign, and in a sworn affidavit to federal regulators in 1994, that her work for Madison was minimal, and the bulk was done by Richard Massey, a Rose law firm colleague. That is contradicted by notes Ms Thomases made when helping the Clintons handle press inquiries about Whitewater during the 1992 campaign.

They say Mrs Clinton had "numerous conferences" with *Madison officials about a deal* the bank was proposing to state regulators to keep itself in business. They show she spoke to the State Securities Commissioner who was appointed by her husband and whose approval was required. That approval was given in 1985, enabling Madison to continue accruing debts.

Mrs Clinton has also claimed that Mr Massey persuaded Madison to employ the Rose law firm. Ms Thomases's notes state Mr Massey "will say he had a lot to do with getting client in". Mr Massey has since denied doing so, and Mr McDougal has claimed he began paying Mrs Clinton a $2000-a-month fee after Mr Clinton had complained to him of financial difficulties. The Clintons have denied that account.

Vincent Foster, whose office in the White House was searched by aides of Hillary Clinton after his death

Sir Anthony Hopkins, left, as Nixon in a scene from Oliver Stone's latest movie, which is condemned as "degrading" by the family

Stone raises storm with film on Nixon

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MEMBERS of the late Richard Nixon's family have attacked the new *Hollywood "biopic" of the former US* President. The film, which depicts Mr Nixon as a hard-drinking, foul-mouthed conspirator, was a "character assassination" and was "reprehensible", they said.

Nixon stars Sir Anthony Hopkins as a hunchbacked President troubled by dark spells, a man of rapacious ego, though ultimately a tragic figure. The film opens in America today.

In a statement, Mr Nixon's daughters Tricia and Julie and their husbands said that the film's creators "concocted imaginary scenes of the Nixons' private life, Richard Nixon's family life as a boy and a young man and his public life that are calculated solely and maliciously to defame and degrade President and Mrs Nixon's memories in the mind of the American public".

Oliver Stone had waited to make his picture until both Richard and Pat Nixon were dead, "expressly to prevent their asserting their rights under the law". In the movie the Nixons have a strained relationship.

The family took issue particularly with suggestions that Mr Nixon supervised an American unit which planned to kill Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader, and that Mr Nixon believed the unit was later turned against President Kennedy. Linking him thus with the Kennedy assassination was so "reprehensible that it should render wholly illegitimate any text or narrative in which it is contained".

Mr Stone, whose previous work includes *JFK* and *Platoon*, responded to the Nixon family's complaints with a statement of his own. "While I understand the distress that any effort to examine the life of Richard Nixon might create for the family, our purpose in making the film was neither malicious nor defamatory," he said. He had intended merely "to attempt a fuller understanding of the life and career of Richard Nixon — the *good and the bad, the triumphs and* the tragedies and the legacy he left his nation and the world".

The Stone movie comes at a time of renewed media interest in the Nixon presidency. Earlier this month a television film, *Nixon and Kissinger*, cast the President as an anti-Semite and Dr Henry Kissinger as an agent of sleaze. A furious Dr Kissinger said that the film was a fantasy infused with "malicious innuendo — a skilful blend of innuendo, distortion and misrepresentation". Ironically, that film was written by Lionel Chetwynd, one of the few right-wing people in Hollywood.

In the Stone film, the former US Secretary of State comes across no more flatteringly — as a yes-man. The late J. Edgar Hoover is presented as a melon-sucking homosexual, Bob Haldeman is shown as a bigoted loyalist, and General Alexander Haig emerges as a realist who would not snap to the breeze.

New release of secrets

Washington: The latest batch of documents relating to the Nixon presidency was released yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes).

Among those poring over the 50,000 pages of information at the National Archives were two, probably Republican, consultants for next year's presidential campaign, checking cross-references to Republican nomination candidates. Robert Dole, the front-runner, chaired the Republican National Committee during part of the Nixon tenure. Lamar Alexander, a former Tennessee Governor, and Pat Buchanan, the commentator, were also involved in his Administration.

Information on Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire, and General Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who have come close to running for the presidency, was also included.

Red faces over black Barbies

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AMERICANS facing a Christmas shortage of Caucasian Barbie Dolls have a high-tech solution: buy one on the Internet for six times the retail price.

While black versions of the best-selling Barbie languish on toyshop shelves, parents of every ethnic hue have been posting offers of up to $200 (£130) on electronic bulletin boards for sought-after white ones.

Mattel Inc, the manufacturer, says last year ten per cent of "Happy Holidays" Barbie Dolls were black — reflecting America's ethnic make-up — and they sold out before Christmas. This year the company raised the proportion to 40 per cent, but overcompensated.

Child psychologists say American girls associate white dolls with beauty, purity and goodness. White "Happy Holidays" Barbies, which cost about $35, are almost as popular with black girls as white ones.

Inflated Internet prices show timing is everything. Mattel has offered coupons for white Barbies at their recommended retail price — redeemable in April.

US business urges budget deal

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT CLINTON was holding an emergency White House meeting with Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, last night as pressure grew on them to resolve their protracted dispute on the US budget.

Ninety of America's corporate leaders took out two-page newsapaper advertisements to demand an end to the "political gridlock" and agree a credible plan to balance the budget in seven years.

More than 250,000 federal workers were forced to stay away from work as the Government remained partially *shut for lack of funds for a* fourth consecutive day. Benefit payments to nearly 17 million welfare recipients and military veterans will be delayed unless it reopens before Christmas. Wall Street sent Washington a powerful vote of no-confidence on Monday as the stock market suffered its biggest one-day drop in four years, and yesterday produced a crop of scathing newspaper editorials.

The Los Angeles Times called the Washington budget game "loathsome" and demanded that Congress and the President forfeit their pay until they deliver a budget.

The tourist industry is being hammered by the shutdown which has closed the capital's national monuments and museums. It lost an estimated $12 million (£7.8 million) during last month's six-day closure *and fears this repeat performance* will deter potential visitors for months to come.

The budget should have been agreed at the start of the fiscal year on October 1. Eleven weeks and two government stoppages later, Mr Clinton has agreed in principle to the Republican goal of a balanced budget by 2002, but the two sides cannot agree on how. The Republicans are insisting on far larger cuts in taxes and popular social programmes than the President will accept, and on the use of less rosy economic forecasts.

On Monday night Mr Clinton offered the Republican leaders two options. He would personally join the negotiations provided they abandoned all preconditions, or he would accept their tough economic assumptions if they agreed to his shallower cuts in *health insurance programmes* for the poor and elderly.

Mr Gingrich and Mr Dole consented to a meeting without conditions, but neither side was hopeful it would produce a breakthrough. Richard Armey, the House leader, predicted "a very difficult discussion as long as the President remains so inflexible and rigid and so unwilling to get down to the hard work that's required".

Mr Clinton had until now left direct negotiations with the Republicans to Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, but Mike McCurry, *his spokesman*, said the President "*wants to* get the Government open and he wants to balance the budget, and there does not appear to be any way toward those goals without a face-to-face discussion".

Mr McCurry said the Ad*ministration would also cease* using the term "non-essential" to describe those federal workers who have been laid off. In deference to their sensibilities, it would describe them as "non-emergency".

Republican values slide in 'Fornigate'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A YEAR after they took Capitol Hill by storm on a tide of traditional family values, a spate of broken marriages and tales of repeated infidelity among young Republicans is threatening to undermine the ideals of their revolution and provide easy ammunition for their Democratic opponents in Congress.

After arriving in Washington in November 1994, the celebrated Republican freshmen class of '95, comprising 73 of Newt Gingrich's most ardent supporters, signed up for weekly bible classes and formed a caucus to fight welfare support for unmarried mothers. Mr Gingrich, the Speaker, vowed that the new class would "turn values into policy and not just leave them as empty rhetoric".

Twelve months later, four marriages have collapsed, two are on the rocks and reports of serial infidelity from the cloakroom at the House of Representatives are increasing by the day. It has become so bad that the bible group has started praying for "protection against rumours" and "support" for those whose reputations have been sullied.

Democrats have seized on a growing embarrassment among Republican ranks. "We've all been tittering about it," said Pat Schroeder, the Colorado Democrat. "There are even people calling it 'Fornigate'. But to see this group that is so strong on preaching fall apart on practising is nothing to titter about. It's really sad."

Brinkley: dropped claim for cash and property

Model agrees $2m divorce settlement

New York: Christie Brinkley, the former supermodel and one-time "Uptown Girl", has given her husband a divorce settlement reportedly worth $2 million (£1.3 million). Miss Brinkley, 42, who married Rick Taubman a year ago this week, dropped demands for cash and property. He is left with the couple's house in Colorado (Quentin Letts writes).

Their wedding was held on a ski slope, with the bride in wedding dress and ski boots. They had a son, Jack, born in the summer. Miss Brinkley, who still works as a model, is a former wife of Billy Joel, the singer, who described her in one song as the "Uptown Girl".

CIA boss predicts huge surge in world terrorism

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

JOHN DEUTCH, the head of the CIA, yesterday predicted a worldwide surge in terrorism in the next decade and said that he was shifting American intelligence resources to help to meet the threat.

"I regret that I have come to the conclusion there is going to be tremendous growth in terrorism over the next decade or so, not only directed towards Americans but throughout the world," he told the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee.

Mr Deutch said that the forecast rise in terrorism would have "immense impact on how we conduct our foreign policy, immense impact on how American businesses operate abroad".

Replying to a question about the threat, Mr Deutch did not discuss why he expected a surge nor pinpoint the possible perpetrators. But in his opening statement he said: "It is my judgment that ideologies and regimes inimical to democracy will continue to exist. Examples today are Iran, Iraq and North Korea." He also cited unspecified transnational groups involved in drug running, organised crime and terrorism.

Mr Deutch said the CIA and its sister US intelligence agencies were "shifting resources" to cope with the threat. He called for a halt in criticism of the CIA's covert operations arm, derided in recent years for bungled operations ranging from the discovery of a Moscow mole in its midst to bribing bureaucrats for trade secrets in Paris.

☐ **Los Angeles:** Dozens of assault rifles and four inflatable rubber rafts were among a stockpile of military hardware seized by the FBI after a dawn raid that foiled an amateur scheme to invade Cuba (Giles Whittell writes).

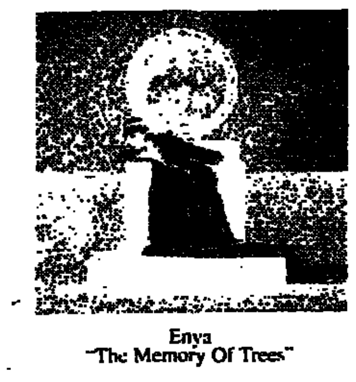
Three Cuban immigrants were arrested in the raid on a warehouse in east Los Angeles, where detailed plans for the invasion attempt were also found. Rene Cruz Sr, 68, his son, Rene Cruz Jr, 47, and Rafael Garcia, 45, were arrested on Saturday and charged with conspiracy and expedition against a friendly nation — a term applying to all countries with which America is not at war — at a preliminary hearing.

The documents found in the raid included papers showing the trio had bought a 50ft shrimp fishing boat that could carry 30 people. Also seized were grenades, bayonets, handcuffs and flare guns.

"What can I get for Richard?"

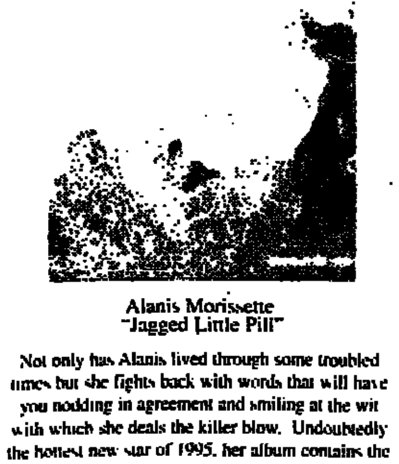
Madonna
"Something To Remember"

A collection of Madonna's best love songs, including classics like "Oh Father", "Rain", "Take A Bow" "This Used To Be My Playground" and "I'll Remember", together with new tracks including her recent hit "You'll See" and "I Want You" (with Massive Attack).



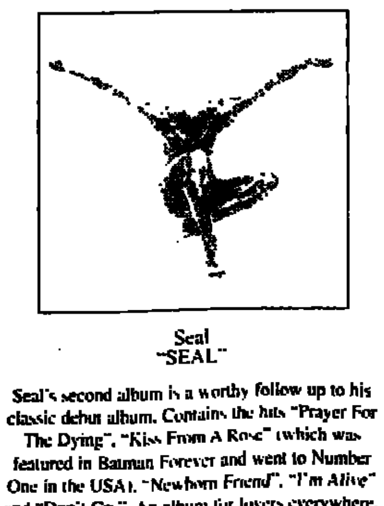
Enya
"The Memory Of Trees"

Enya's brand new album has been four years in the making and the consensus is that it is her best ever. "Haunting, enchanting ... extraordinary" (Daily Express). "Like nothing else on Earth" (****Q) Includes the hit single "Anywhere Is".



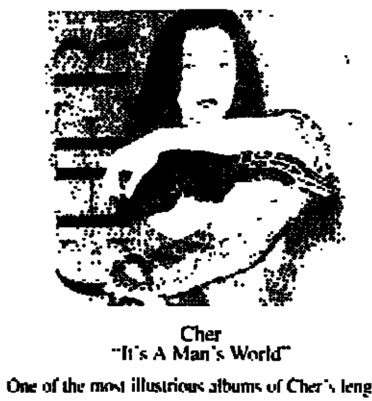
Alanis Morissette
"Jagged Little Pill"

Not only has Alanis lived through some troubled times but she fights back with words that will have you nodding in agreement and smiling at the wit with which she deals the killer blow. Undoubtedly the hottest new star of 1995, her album contains the hits "You Oughta Know" and "Hand In My Pocket".



Seal
"SEAL"

Seal's second album is a worthy follow up to his classic debut album. Contains the hits "Prayer For The Dying", "Kiss From A Rose" (which was featured in Batman Forever and went to Number One in the USA), "Newborn Friend", "I'm Alive" and "Don't Cry". An album for lovers everywhere.



Cher
"It's A Man's World"

One of the most illustrious albums of Cher's lengthy recording career, it includes "Walking In Memphis", "One By One" and classics such as "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore" and "It's A Man's, Man's, Man's World". With her unique voice sounding as rich and powerful as ever this new album is a must for Cher fans new and old

The secrets of see-through fashion

Sheer delight in the bare necessities

When fashion designers dress models in glamorous gowns of sheer chiffon or spidery lace, women everywhere can be heard muttering, "How am I supposed to wear that?" Yet there are few seasons when see-through does not feature as an alluring after-dark alternative.

There are endless variations — from the exotic and explicit to the discreet and charming. There may be few women (with the exception of Liz Hurley and Madonna) who can wear the full-length black chiffon evening dress by Dolce & Gabbana — which does little to cover a woman's modesty — yet this show-stopping outfit presents peek-a-boo chic at its most overt. However, not every designer wants their customer to dress like Demi Moore in *Striptease*, the film which is presently wowing the fashion pack in New York.

Discovering how designers interpret a trend is both exciting and telling. While Dolce & Gabbana might go overboard with see-through daytime suits trimmed around the collar and cuffs with black fake fur, the more conservative New Yorker Oscar de la Renta keeps his cool with a heavily embroidered lace evening dress with the barest minimum of semi-exposed flesh — a shadow of fine silk tulle stretched across the shoulders and arms.

John Galliano, British Designer of the Year, inserts a trail of black chiffon flowers into a white bias-cut slithery gown; Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel offers black lace skirts worn with matching plain knit sweaters; Betty Jackson puts a see-through top with a ballerina-length ballgown skirt, while Sportmax slips a beaded transparent top over a strapless dress.

There is no right or wrong way to join the see-through set. If you are feeling bold, Jenny Packham's mesh body with ribbon lace and beaded embroidery will definitely cause heads to turn. For the less exhibitionist, there are several ways to allude to see-through without baring all.

Organza fits fashion's brief. The fabric looks best cut into a boxy 1950s-style fly-front shirt. Wear this over a shoe-string strap or strapless dress. Lace makes a less obvious alternative. Its romantic image softens the mood. Romeo Gigli is famous for his mysterious vision — when the fashion world was obsessed with power dressing, Gigli served up fragile fairy-tale princesses cocooned in coats of pleated organza and wrapped in wisps of chiffon. His latest designs are just as special: his black stitched chiffon dress worn over a shoe-string strap slip is covered with subtle beadwork.

If a strappy dress leaves shoulders and arms bare, then drape yourself with a diaphanous devoré velvet wrap which continues the theme while giving just enough coverage.

A see-through stretch body is another option. Worn over a strapless brassiere, longer line bustier or even a skinny vest top, it provides the effect without cause for concern. Some mesh bodies come complete with *faux* bustiers in stretch satin or velvet.

This trend can be assimilated into the wardrobe in the most understated way — it could be just a shoe with see-through panels, or the merest glimpse of legs clad in sheer black tights showing through the side split of a modest black dress.

Fashion doesn't have to alienate. With a few minor adjustments it can reveal countless opportunities for everyone to join in the fun.

Fashion journalist of the year

IAIN R. WEBB

◆

LEFT ABOVE: Grey satin jacket, £145, long black wrap skirt £59, Jigsaw, branches nationwide (0181-878 8443). Sheer body, £55, Wolford, major department stores nationwide. Lace strapless bra, £17.99, Gossard, House of Fraser stores nationwide (0171-331 4519).

RIGHT ABOVE: Stretch black beaded body, £182, long black split skirt with sash, £215, Jenny Packham, Harrods, SW1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1; Jenners, 48 Princes Street, Edinburgh. Ultra Five Tights, £3 49, Aristoc, major stores.

Photographs by IAIN R. WEBB. Make-up by Jo Karsberg. Hair by James Dodds.

ABOVE: Black organza shirt, £79, Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Black satin fine strap dress, £49.99, Warehouse branches nationwide (0181-910 1400). Long lace gloves, £9.99, Dents branches nationwide. Diamante cross, £18.50, Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton St, W1.

ABOVE LEFT: Silk dress with lace overdress, £770, Romeo Gigli, 62 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-495 6730). Devoré wrap, £195, Liberty, as above. Cross as above.

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Girls just want to have fun

Christmas parties are a minefield of temptation — but it isn't only men who are indiscreet. **Jason Cowley** on women behaving badly

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Anita Ekberg lets down her hair in *La Dolce Vita*. This week thousands of women across the country are doing the same on the frenzied Christmas party circuit

THE LIMELIGHT Club in Piccadilly is packed tonight. The music is loud, the air is thick with cigarette smoke and other exotic scents, and everywhere you look there are young women behaving badly.

But this is no ordinary club night in raveland — this is the annual office party of a leading publishing house, and these liberated, daring women are behaving no differently from thousands of others across the country who have spent the Christmas party season having fun and seeking pleasure.

A survey published last week claimed that almost half of all office romances began at Christmas parties.

Julia Cole of the relationship counselling agency Relate confirms that the Christmas party season is a minefield of temptation and indiscretion.

"Most people spend more time at work than they do at home. So naturally they are going to develop feelings for their colleagues and Christmas parties, with their alcohol and mistletoe, encourage intimacy and the indulgence of long suppressed desires. Relationships are under tremendous strain at this time of year."

So, as the recipient of as many as four invitations a night to publishing parties, I thought I'd test the veracity of these claims by spending the run-up to Christmas doing nothing but going to parties. That publishing is notoriously overpopulated with young women may also have influenced my thinking.

Yet my week begins slowly at the *Times Literary Supplement* bash. The occasion is earnestly hushed, there is very little sign of any indiscretion; but the malt whisky is good and I do see a tall, striking redhead in a Katharine Hamnett dress locked in an embrace with an aged don, his nose bulbously inflamed.

The next night, however, I find what I am looking for. The Publishers Publicity Circle's Christmas party is usually one of the highlights of the season. This is the event at which even the waiters carrying trays of canapés are not safe from groping girls; at which one publicist famously offered the literary editor of a respectable broadsheet regular sex if he would publish a review of one of the books she was promoting. And that is one of the cleaner stories I can relate.

The world of publishing publicity is the preserve of the south London Sloane set, and as I arrive at the Groucho Club in Soho I hear the sound of the daughters of the English county families braying for broken glass. The party is held in a dark, intimate upstairs room. Women outnumber men by almost ten to one. The room vibrates with the throb of expectation. Whistles and shrieks pierce the air. I grab a glass of wine and watch as the man from the BBC emerges gingerly from a thicket of Camillas and Francescas, only to be dragged back into the fray by a voluptuous blonde from whose tanned wrist hangs sparkling jewels.

You move through the closed, airless world of this party with blanched fascination. There is so much wine that every woman seems to be holding a glass of red in one hand and a glass of white in the other. Everyone seems to be smoking. Many of the dresses and skirts, most of which are black, are cut thrillingly short. For such a cold night, there is so much exposed flesh on display. These women really do just want to have fun.

The first person I meet is the inveterate partygoer Minna Fry, who is still celebrating her inclusion in *Tatler's* "Black Book" of the hottest dates in town. Although her glass of wine is half full, she immediately asks if I can get her another one.

"The great thing about Christmas parties is that you can get away with anything," she says through a haze of cigarette smoke. "You can always have a quick snog or a grope with someone you've fancied for ages because the next day you can blame the wine."

'I arrived by mistake. I've never met girls like these before'

As I move towards the bar, avoiding the sea of outstretched hands, I am stopped by Kay Scott from Bloomsbury Publishers. She is 22 and has a feline seductiveness. "Have you read any good sex scenes lately?" she asks by way of introduction. Before I can think of an appropriate riposte, she turns away, her Ghost minidress and knee-length suede boots disappearing in a swirl of moving bodies.

Later, I see Kay again, arm wrapped nonchalantly around a rather startled-looking chap. He is a doctor, and he confesses to being at the *wrong* party. But he doesn't seem to care much, since his shirt is open, and Kay's friend is running her fingers through his damp chest hair.

"I wandered into this party by mistake," the doctor says. "But I was having such a good time I decided to stay. I've never met girls like these before."

One of the few women in the room who is waiting for men to approach her is Eliza Sporborg of Midas PR. Huskily voiced and languidly guarded, her eyes spark mischievously as we swap stories about other people's bad behaviour. But has she herself ever done anything she regretted at an office party? "No," she says a little too defensively. "But a couple of years ago I worked on a newspaper, and at our Christmas party one of the secretaries had you-know-what in a back room with two different columnists — and in less than half an hour." I am encouraged by her story, but when I spy the shining band of gold on the third finger of her left hand, I understand why she is happy to be one of the pursued, not a pursuer.

'There are so few men here, we will be fighting over them'

My next stop is the Penguin authors' party in Kensington, where last year I saw the definitive Sixties wild child, Marianne Faithfull, elegant in black and gold, share a drink with the writer Mick Brown, while sidling up to Jeremy Paxman. The guest list looks just as good this year, but first you have to get there.

It is a cold, clear, windswept winter's night, but the streets are bustling with energy. As I flag down a cab, a couple burst out of the shadows behind me and get into it.

The girl is wearing very little and she huddles against the man in the back seat. He looks out of the window as the cab pulls away, and for some reason he reminds me of the doctor who was talking to me at the party. Then I remember that glass of wine I promised Minna Fry, and hurry back inside.

Back at the Limelight, writhing bodies can be glimpsed through the flickering strobes and clouds of dry ice. I approach a group of young women and begin talking to 19-year-old Emma Boyes. She is wearing a skimpy Jonathan Richmond dress and chain-smokes Marlboro Lights. Without being prompted, she starts talking about who may end up sleeping with whom.

"My friends and I love behaving badly at parties — especially at this time of year. I was at a party only last week when a girl I knew started having a bonk on top of a bar in front of everyone. You couldn't believe what you were seeing. Someone asked me if we should stop them. But I said, 'Leave them alone, they're having fun'."

Emma is down to her last cigarette now, so I offer to buy her some more. Yet as I struggle across the dance floor I get caught up with a group of dancing girls and rushed along with them. Eventually, I reach the bar, where I meet Rosalie Kidston, a 6ft 3in brunette from Fulham. Although she looks and moves like a supermodel, she confesses to writing computer software for a living. Her backless micro-short sequin black dress is spectacularly revealing. In her stilettos, she is surely the tallest woman in the club. In fact, she comfortably towers over most of the men, too.

"I love this place," she says, tossing her head so that her lacquered hair falls across one side of her face. "With all the nooks and crannies there is so much potential for decadence. There are so few men here that we will be fighting over them later."

I ask about her dress. "I bought it especially for tonight," she says. "I took it up myself a couple of inches. It's a Herve Leger."

"Didn't he write the Tintin books?" I ask.

She doesn't answer, so I make my excuses and leave.

Much later, as I collect my coat from the basement, I glimpse Emma in a murky corner struggling to free herself from an embrace. She calls out to me, her voice fluctuating with feverish warmth. She says something about some cigarettes.

I fleetingly consider turning back . . . but it's past midnight now and I still have another two parties to go to.

The lost art of the formal introduction

Rachel Kelly on why hostesses no longer do the proper thing at parties

IT HAS happened to all of us. You arrive at the festive doorway. You are shown to a room full of strangers. And left. When were you last introduced to someone who had two names? More often than not, if we are introduced at all, we get only a first name. Lost are the opportunities for shared gossip if only we'd realised we were talking to *that* Johnnie. And gained are the chances of being rude if, for example, you were chatting to Carol and insulted Lady T. before you realised you were talking to her daughter.

The social field has become even more heavily mined since professional couples no longer share the same surname. Beware of insulting someone who could just turn out to be your companion's spouse.

Lady Elizabeth Anson, cousin of the Queen, is the power behind Party Planners and an accomplished hostess. She bemoans the lost art of the introduction. "The typical thing about the British is that they don't speak to someone unless someone else introduces them," she says. "They stand there with their arms dangling."

We can spend an entire weekend with a dozen others and not learn their names, says Lady Celestria Noel, the social editor of *Harpers & Queen*. "Introducing is one of the most important things a hostess can do."

Once upon a time, society was so small that introductions were practically unnecessary. But by our grandmother's day, a hostess knew that her role was to introduce; she was the heartbeat of the party. The best would give her guests a flying conversational start with a mini-biography. "Typically they might say, 'This is Elizabeth Anson, who lives half in Scotland and half in Staffordshire, and this is Johnnie Bloggs who is in the Irish Guards'. Most of the time you didn't take on board what the hostess had said, but at least you had something to start people talking," Lady Elizabeth says.

Lord Lichfield and Lady Elizabeth Anson

Now the new informality — "it's supper, not dinner" — has conspired to make parties less fun. Today's harassed hostess arrives hotfoot from the office, unpacking M&S canapés with junior on her hip.

What's the answer? Well, we could relearn the art of the good introduction. "Balance is critical," says Lady Elizabeth. "There is nothing worse than the over-ambitious hostess. When we were young my brother Patrick [Lord Lichfield] and I were always being introduced by hostesses who didn't realise we were related. We would have a lovely time talking to each other."

Ewa Lewis, the social editor of *Tatler*, says: "It's an extremely delicate business. The best way to introduce is to open the conversation with an interesting statement or sentence." Lady Celestria agrees. "Give people a clue, but don't say, 'She's written a book,' if it's just been remaindered."

We can learn from the Americans who are brilliant at sticking their hands out, smiling broadly and saying "How-do-you-do? My name is Bill Clinton. I'm in politics," then repeating their name two minutes later.

For those who must do their own introducing this Christmas, the best gambit is still: "And what are you doing now?" But always remember the Lady Diana Cooper lesson. Famously, at a Buckingham Palace party, she was confronted with a dowdy woman chatting about her brother. "And what is your brother doing now?" she inquired. "He is still King," came the reply.

Who'd be a butcher at Christmas?

The meat's off, says **Giles Coren**

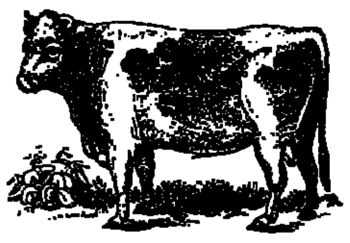
THIS could be a bleak midwinter for butchers. For the traditional Christmas dinner is beginning to look like an environmental crime of monstrous proportions — the Chernobyl of festive meals. A large turkey covered with strips of bacon and chipolatas, and followed by a Christmas pudding made from beef suet, is likely to generate a different reaction, this year, from the oohs and aahs of old.

Beef is off the Christmas list for obvious reasons, and turkey is certain to be regarded with horror after Channel 4's documentary, *The Turkey Business*, in which the bird's sex life was shown to be only marginally less appalling than its gruesome death.

This is bad news for butchers, and cannot be dismissed as humbug. "It has been pretty hard this year," says Dave Armstrong, a Dewhurst butcher in Southwark, south London. "Beef has slowed down a great deal — and the turkey programme could well affect the late rush." The British Poultry Federation were all out having Christmas lunch, but the Turkey Information Service thought the price of their gobblers would guarantee resilience. "Price wars have meant that a 12lb turkey can be bought for £5," said a spokeswoman. "But you would have to pay as much as £45 for a traditional turkey." Traditional turkey? How avant-garde can a turkey be, even if it *is* cheaper than catfood?

"My customers won't go near that stuff now," says Alan Whitworth, of G.W. Boggis, in Lowestoft, Suffolk. "The turkeys I sell cost 15 times as much as frozen ones — but I have to convince people that my meat is different."

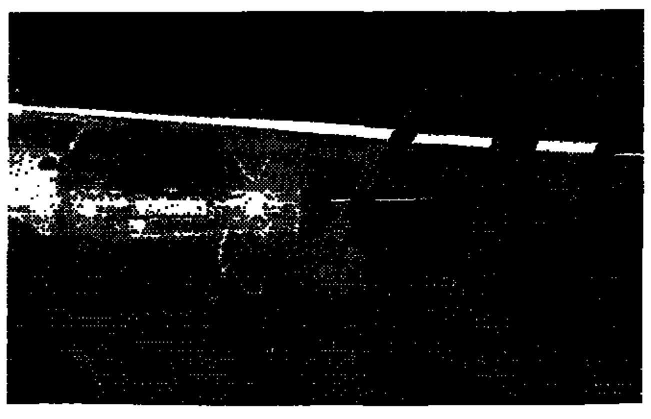
Pork, too, has suffered, though for more unpredictable reasons. The film *Babe*, in which a talking piglet, anthropomorphised to within an oink of humanity, survives the threat of sausagedom, has been a huge success, and under-12s are boycotting pork products — either out of sentimentality, or for fear that their lunch may answer back.


The cruellest cut at Christmas

At the Meat and Livestock Commission, defensiveness is the watchword. "Beef sales have dropped by 15 per cent," said a spokesman. "And while I expect this to be a temporary setback, it is undeniably bad timing for butchers. As for *Babe*, I shall go and watch it, and think of bacon sandwiches."

It is rumoured that 900 pigs were used in the film. We may choose to believe the promise that none of the extras will be spending Christmas in apple sauce, but as we sit down to a plate of the old eggs and b. on Christmas morning, will we not reflect that it is usually only Hollywood studio executives who eat film stars for breakfast?

INSIDE SECTION 2
Look back in affection: John Osborne's last play is premiered on Christmas Day. Preview page 32



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Why Britain must speak for Europe

John Redwood resists the idea of a Franco-German superstate

Should Britain mind if France and Germany wish to merge? Could Britain stop them anyway? These are not academic debates. They are the reality of modern Europe, where French and German politicians have come remarkably close to deciding to bring their countries together. France says it wants to join a currency union with Germany. This would mean that French interest rates, the budget deficit and the foreign exchange reserves would all be managed by an unelected central bank shared with Germany, based in Frankfurt.

Germany says she will only accept this monetary union if there is also a political union, which presumably means merging much of what remains of the two separate states and governments. National identity would be a matter of language and culture, but *not of sovereignty.*

The people are *not* so sure about all this. The Germans are proud of their mark. It is a colossal achievement of post-war Germany. They are right to fear that, however many controls and levers they hold over a new one, it will be less strong than the German currency alone. Nor are they quite happy about taking on more responsibilities and paying higher taxes for the less prosperous parts of Europe. They have already had to pay dearly for helping Eastern Germany.

Almost half of the French voted against the Maastricht Treaty. Today it would be more. Forces of the extreme Right, based on a crude and unattractive nationalism, are poised to gain many more votes, as voters come to fear the long march of France into a merger with its neighbour. The French unions have taken up the cudgels against the budget cuts that Maastricht requires. Many French people are fed up with the deflation, the high unemployment and high interest rates that are the result of preparing for life with the mark. For many, it feels more like preparing for a funeral on the death of their country, rather than for a wedding with the suitor next door.

Traditionally, it has been Britain's role and Britain's interest to balance power in Europe. We and the Dutch ended the Spanish hegemony in the 16th and 17th centuries. We and the Prussians brought France to heel when Napoleon tried to unite Europe by force of arms. We and the French twice stopped Germany taking over by military might. We have always lived by overseas trade, and have wanted an open trading system on the Continent so that we can earn our living.

Some say things are different now. They say that to have influence we should join the Franco-German merger. But as a global trader, we do not want a protectionist system. As a believer in open markets and competition, we do not welcome a Europe of the mega-state, as created by the Franco-German *démarche*.

It is still in Britain's interests to keep a balance on the Continent. Some of the architects of the new Europe have in mind once more a Europe which protects its main companies and markets from outside influences and competition. They want a Europe run by the *énarques* and officials, where many of the important decisions will be taken behind closed doors with little, if any, democratic accountability.

Britain believes in something different: a bold, outgoing Europe which plays a full part in the world market, a democratic Europe which respects the different strands and traditions which have been woven to make the different nations. We fear too much integration, because it would make government ever remoter from the people and it would cut across national loyalties and sentiments.

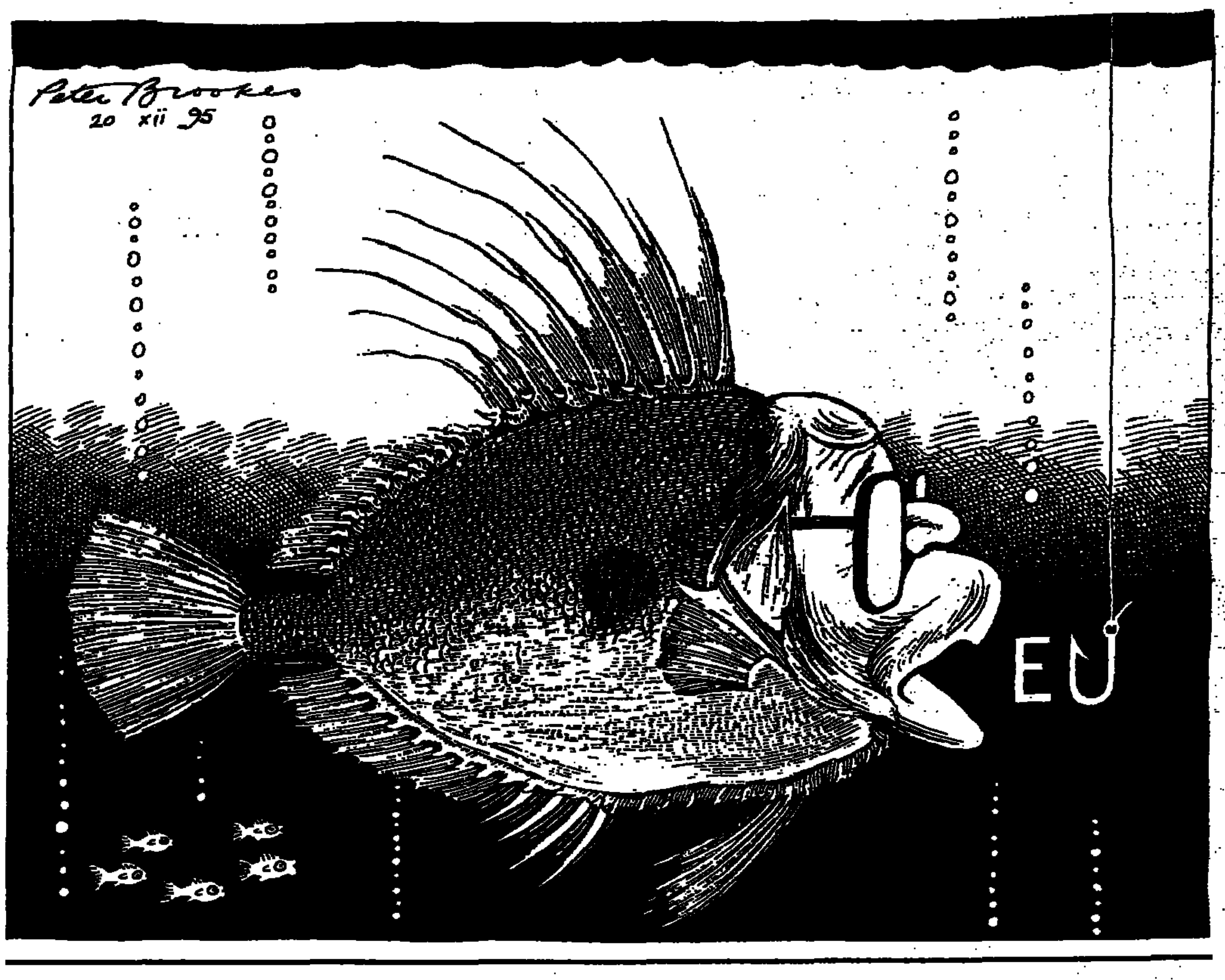
It is not the case that we need fear invasion if France, the Low Countries and Germany decide to become one. It is the case that we should fear the disruption that this might cause to those societies and economies. We have seen on the streets of France the dangers of pushing people too far against a background of high unemployment and high interest rates. We know the dangers that lurk for world trade and jobs should Europe decide on a continental system of protection.

We have always opposed a fortress Europe

A merged Germany and France would be a colossal power, with a big economy, more people than Japan, and with nuclear weapons. It would make it very difficult for Britain to have influence in Europe. Those who say that because of this we must join it must see that this does not make it easier for us to have influence: it means we have lost the argument. If we joined the superstate, not only would we have lost decisive influence on the Continent, but we would lose it in the rest of the world as well, as our foreign exchange reserves, investments and diplomatic activity came under the control of a new state, in which we would be minority participants.

Britain owes it to the world to stand up for a separate France and Germany, by speaking out for all those millions of Frenchmen who voted "no" in the referendum and for the millions more who now oppose the policies needed in France to prepare for the single currency. We should speak out for the majority of Germans who do not want the mark to be abolished. We should speak out for all those smaller states in Europe which fear the Franco-German merger but which are appeasing rather than opposing it, or which try to pretend it is not happening or that it could be in their interests.

Greece and Portugal know they will be on the edges of Europe and of little importance. Spain and Italy know they too will be excluded from the Union core. They need a Europe that works, for a Europe that can get back to work. It is Britain's task to offer this alternative.



A Christmas miracle

Tim Congdon on Britain as the home of the enterprise culture

Whatever happened to the Thatcher economic "miracle"? Has the economic performance of the Government, over its entire 16-year span, been any better than mediocre? Has the over-touted miracle turned into the widely expected mirage? Or was the Chancellor right when he said in the Budget speech that Britain can become the home of the enterprise culture in Europe?

These are basic questions about Britain's political economy. Whatever else might be said about the Government, there is no doubt that the past 16 years have been a period of radical change. Privatisation, trade union reform and deregulation have had a revolutionary impact in many industries. As the next election draws closer, political debate will be increasingly influenced by analyses of whether all the upheaval has damaged or benefited the economy.

My belief is that the supply-side reforms implemented over the past 16 years have led to an acceleration in the rate of growth of manufacturing productivity. This acceleration is clear and can hardly be disputed. Indeed it was so pronounced in the 15 years to 1994 that it put Britain virtually at the top of the league of manufacturing productivity growth for the OECD area, which includes all of the world's most advanced industrial economies. The contrast with previous periods since 1945 — when Britain was routinely at the bottom of such tables — is dramatic.

In this sense the Conservative period has been a miracle. Moreover, the upturn in productivity growth extends into the early 1990s, spanning both the Thatcher and Major premierships. The key facts are set out in the accompanying table, from an article by Nicholas Oulton in the *National Institute Economic Review*.

In the period 1960-73, the growth rate of manufacturing productivity in Britain was the lowest of all the countries cited except the United States; in the period 1973-79, performance was even worse, with a sharp drop in productivity growth compared with the preceding 13 years and Britain at the very bottom of the list. In the period 1979-94, however, Britain was second out of the 12 countries (just behind Japan) and the productivity growth was four times that of 1973-79.

In his article, Mr Oulton is cautious. He notes, for example, that the growth rate in the 1960s and early 1970s was similar to that achieved under the present Government, and — on this basis — the post-1979 record would be better described as a "recovery" than an "improvement". He also warns that the gains in productivity (ie, output per worker) have not been matched by similar gains in output, because manufacturing employment has declined.

Yet Britain appears in recent years to have done well, relative both to its own past and to its industrial competitors. The level of output per head in manufacturing may now be only slightly behind that in Germany and France, and is probably somewhat above the average in the European Union. There is no longer any reason for the British to suffer a national inferiority complex on this score. (In some sectors, such as food manufacturing and the steel industry, British output per head is well ahead of that in Germany.)

We no longer languish at the bottom of the league table

The productivity recovery has transformed Britain's underlying competitiveness. Direct wage costs in Britain are much the same as in France and considerably lower than in Germany. If everything else were equal, the approximate equivalence in output per head would imply unit labour costs in Britain similar to those in France and less than those in Germany. But everything else is not equal. Largely as a result of the Tories' struggle to curb the public sector, the ratio of government expenditure to national output is now almost 10 per cent lower in Britain than in Germany, and almost 15 per cent lower than in France. The burden of some taxes — such as value added tax — is roughly equal in the three countries owing to EU harmonisation. With expenditure lower but some taxes the same, other taxes have to be much lower in Britain.

The big difference is concentrated in social security contributions, particularly those paid by employers. Whereas employers' contributions in France amount to more than 12 per cent of gross national product, and in Germany to almost 8 per cent, the figure in Britain is less than 4 per cent. As a result, total labour costs per unit of output are significantly lower in Britain than in its continental neighbours. Logically, Britain has become host to many large direct investments from overseas, whereas Germany's direct investment in other countries in 1995 will be five times as large as other countries' direct investment in Germany.

But in one respect, the advance of British manufacturing is surprising, even paradoxical. In the early 1980s, the rhetoric of the Thatcher Government was widely regarded as anti-manufacturing and pro-services. There was alleged to be a particular bias towards financial services in the City and against basic manufacturing industries. State aid to industry has been slashed. Government expenditure on trade and industry in the current financial year will be lower, even in money terms, than in 1979-80. Yet manufacturing has done better. Despite both the removal of billions of pounds of state support, manufacturing is in good shape.

Of course, the advocates of the more robust government attitude towards industry pursued over the past 16 years would see nothing strange in the conjunction of less intervention and more growth. Whereas in the 1970s industry was being killed by the kindness of excessive state handouts, in the 1980s it has been revitalised by the harshness of a more free-market approach. Anti-interventionists would say that the elimination of state support ought to be followed by a shift of resources from inefficient to efficient industries, with positive effects on productivity. And this, it seems, is what has happened.

All the same, the notion that Britain's economic miracle (if such it be) is substantially a manufacturing miracle may be difficult to accept. Surely, the Government's critics will protest. Thatcherism wasn't supposed to benefit blue-collar workers and manufacturers in the North and Scotland, but white-colour workers and merchant bankers in London and the South-East? Can the stereotype be so thoroughly misguided?

As so often, the stereotype is wrong and reappraisal is long overdue. The improvement in manufacturing has now extended over such a long period and been corroborated by so many statistics that it cannot be denied. However much the critics dislike the facts, they speak for themselves.

But a puzzle remains. The undoubted progress in manufacturing — where output per head has virtually doubled since 1979 — does not seem to have been accompanied by a comparably spectacular improvement in living standards. As manufacturing accounts for only a fifth of national output, the manufacturing miracle has not been enough to achieve a more general economic miracle.

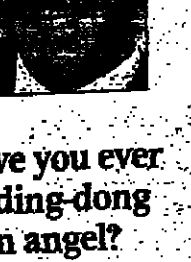
So the next questions are "why has the surge in manufacturing, an area traditionally seen as Britain's weakness, failed to boost productivity in the whole economy?" and "what, if anything, has gone so badly wrong elsewhere that the gains in manufacturing appear to have been dissipated?" *I shall address these questions in a second article shortly.*

Output per manhour in manufacturing: percentage growth per annum

	1960-73	1973-79	1979-89	1979-94
United States	3.28	1.41	2.34	2.47
Canada	4.44	2.03	1.45	1.81
Japan	9.59	5.15	4.58	4.18
Belgium	6.69	5.83	4.16	3.73
Denmark	6.22	4.09	1.28	1.68
France	6.55	4.39	3.28	3.04
Germany	5.71	4.21	1.83	2.22
Italy	6.14	5.60	3.86	3.91
Netherlands	7.15	5.32	3.40	3.04
Norway	4.69	2.21	2.03	2.06
Sweden	6.25	2.85	2.53	2.87
United Kingdom	4.14	1.01	4.13	3.95

Source: US Department of Labor, BLS News, September 1995

Alan Coren



■ Have you ever had a ding-dong with an angel?

She was born to ding-dong merrily on high. That was her life's work. That was the career her Creator had marked out for her, ten thousand miles from Cricklewood. "You will be flown to Cricklewood," he murmured, tenderly but firmly, "you will be placed on high, and once you are up there, you will ding-dong merrily."

I may be taking small liberties here, I do not know exactly what he said, I wasn't there, but I feel fairly confident that he said something: you cannot sit all day in the middle of the South China Sea knocking out electronic fairies without the work getting to you a bit, especially as you cannot talk to the assembler next to you, they are strict disciplinarians in Taiwan, turn to your neighbour for a natter and you will be out on your ear. It is therefore not unlikely that you would murmur to the fairy between your fingers, to stop yourself going nuts.

The scene now shifts to Camden Market, last Saturday, whither a man has gone whose old fairy appears to have done a runner; for it is one of the Parkinsonian laws of Christmas that work expands so as to require twice the time available for its completion, make that thrice if the work involves a tree. For example, because you are an old hand at the Yule game, you allow an extra hour for rushing out to buy new lights, only to find that the old lights actually work, for once, so you cry "Wow! Terrific! I have been granted a whole extra hour to rush out and buy the chocolate Santas I thought we already had!" and then you reach into the lights box to get the fairy to put on the top of the tree, but she has gone, so not only does the whole extra hour go in looking where she isn't, you now have to find three new hours to rush out and buy another fairy.

One of these is spent in not discovering them in any local shop, a second is spent parking just outside Wolverhampton, this being as close as you can to Camden Market on pre-Christmas Saturday, and the third is spent trudging through the stalls until you find the only man who sells fairies. He does not, though, sell fairies like your old fairy, who, Yule in, Yule out, just clung there silently blessing the household with a wonky wand, he sells only fairies who sing *Ding-Dong Merrily On High*. "They got this chip in," he explains. "They wossname every hour, on the hour."

So I gave him a tenner, and took her home. She said nothing in the car. She said nothing when I put her on the tree. And then, after about ten minutes, she sang "Ding-dong merrily on high". After another ten minutes, she was still singing it. I took her down again, and, with this technical expertise I have, shook her. She did not stop. I tapped her lightly against the banister. "Ding-dong merrily on high!" she sang.

This was bad news. There were 21 days to go until Twelfth Night, and there was quite enough coming up in those 21 days which would threaten to drive us all barking mad, without having an incontinent Chinese *soprano* to help out.

I took her into the kitchen, put her on the table, and removed her clothes. She had, sorry about this, a little hatch between her legs, which, it would seem, led to her works. So — this is the fourth hour by now, and, if I haven't mentioned it, I had forgotten, while out, to buy the chocolate Santas — I put a screwdriver to the hatch. It was a bit unsettling, performing major abdominal surgery on a patient singing "Ding-dong merrily on high!" but I persevered, even when I discovered that I could not open the hatch without first prising her legs off. I would have unscrewed them, but they didn't unscrew, they had little rivets. I could now get to her innards. They had a tiny digital-watch battery in them. I took it out. She shut up.

All I had to do now was get her legs back on. I got one leg back on. Ask me where the other little rivet went. Ask me how long I took to look for it. Unsuccessfully. But I put her back on the top of the tree anyway. No one would notice, right up there.

I'd just finished when Mrs Coren came through the front door, lugging shopping bags. "Why has the fairy got only one leg?" she inquired.

"I bet you forgot to buy chocolate Santas," I said.

Digging in

THE PRINCE OF WALES has suffered a setback in trying to advance the organic cause of Highgrove, his estate in Gloucestershire. One of Britain's foremost organic farmers, Helen Browning, has turned down an offer from the Prince of a chance to take charge of his farm's operation.

Ms Browning's techniques of muck and mystery have long been admired by the Prince who has installed his own organic sewage treatment plant at Highgrove. She runs a farm of more than 1,000 acres on the Wiltshire Downs, with dairy cows, sheep, free-range hens and a herd of muck-snuffling Saddleback pigs, which are admired by the local fraternity.

But, after mulling over the considerable advantages of a link with Highgrove, she is said to have decided that a commitment of a couple of days a week away from her home farm would be too much. "I don't think I am prepared to say anything at the moment," was all she would say.

Land agents in Gloucestershire say, however, that the Prince has yet to accept her refusal, and is still trying to persuade her to lead the Highgrove team. They also claim that the farm manager David Wilson is none too happy about the prospect of a new boss. "The Prince's chief land agent, from the firm Smith Gore, is retiring soon though," said one. "So it's a good chance to get in some new blood."

● *An absurdity of royal correspondents gathered yesterday for an emotional Christmas lunch at Christopher's in Covent Garden, where James Whitaker, Andrew Morton, Richard Kay and Anthony Holden toyed with turkey while discussing the Princess of Wales. Today's royal lunchers will concentrate on the husband: the Prince of Wales's private secretary, Commander Richard Aylard, will be joined at his favourite restaurant by Jonathan Dimbleby, puppet of "the enemy".*

Aghast

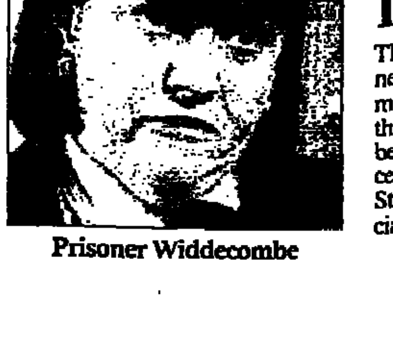
I HOPE William Cash, son of Euro-sceptic MP Bill Cash and one of Liz Hurley's regular escorts, does not inflict on her the behaviour which shocked an entire restaurant on Monday night. Au Bon Accueil restaurant in Chelsea Green was lively, customers were enjoying their food and Cash junior was tired and emotional.

Halfway into an interminable tale about life in Los Angeles, Cash went green, then white, and caused a mess all over the tablecloth. And then continued with his story.

Jail bird

THE PRISONS Minister, Ann Widdecombe, is throwing herself into her job with gusto, if her appearance on Monday's BBC news to talk about problems at Holloway is anything to go by. She looked fit for a part in the Australian soap about female prisoners, *Cell Block H*.

The minister has been experimenting with a number of styles recently, but consultants were taken aback by her choice of black jacket, enormous floppy bow-tie, and by jet black hair with a frumpy fringe. "Looking like the jailer doesn't help her image," commented Mary Spillane, the parliamentary image-maker.


Prisoner Widdecombe

Tub-u-like

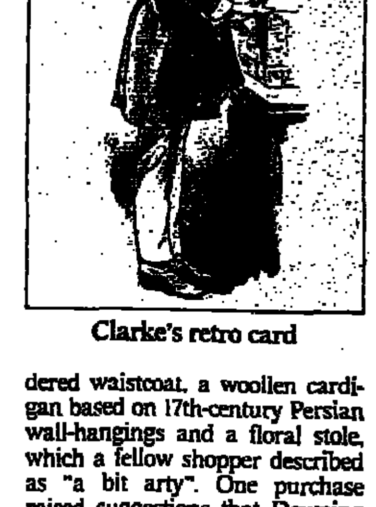
THE FESTIVE season is not swinging in quite customary fashion for Maureen Lipman. At the Foyles luncheon yesterday to launch her memoir *You Can Read Me Like a Book*, she was left sitting by herself for 15 minutes because her neighbours Ned Sherrin and Jane Asher were late.

But she hopes things will look up in the new year. "Christmas will just be with my mother and the children and their various lanky appendages. But this morning I was rung up by a friend who asked if I wanted to go and sit around eating Chinese takeaway in a hot tub — which is not easy to refuse."

Looking back

TRUE TO his beery tastes, Kenneth Clarke has chosen a Christmas card of Gladstone toping at the dispatch box. His shopping has been equally nostalgic: the Chancellor was yesterday in the Regent Street branch of *Past Times*, specialists in historical replicas.

He bought a Tudor-style embroidered waistcoat, a woollen cardigan based on 17th-century Persian wall-hangings and a floral stole, which a fellow shopper described as "a bit arty". One purchase raised suggestions that Downing Street might benefit from his munificence. He bought a doormat, modelled on one owned by Samuel Johnson and inscribed "Here lives a very fine cat indeed". Humphrey is in for a treat.


Clarke's retro card

P·H·S

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BOTTOMLEY AND DAVIS

A bad decision by both politician and regulator

Virginia Bottomley's decision yesterday not to sack Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, was said to be "finely balanced". If so, she brought the weight of her judgment down on the wrong side. Mr Davis has been guilty of bad judgment on an issue central to his public function. That does not mean that he is corrupt, only that he is tarnished. A tarnished regulator will not quell the unease that surrounds the lottery. A nationalised gambling operation, which necessarily has potential to bring great benefit and grave disrepute, should not only be clean and impeccably ruled: it must be seen to be so.

A national lottery has three potentially dangerous characteristics. It is a monopoly; it can be rigged; and it involves the handling of huge sums of money. Moreover, of the industries that operate within the law, gambling is the world's toughest and most ruthless. So whoever is appointed to police the National Lottery has to be the equal of those under regulation.

Mr Davis, the Director-General of Oflot since its inception, has proved unequal to the task. His acceptance of free flights and foreign hospitality from GTech, a partner in the Camelot consortium which operates the lottery, displayed a woeful lack of judgment — particularly since, as has now emerged, he was advised by the Government not to accept the offers. There is no suggestion that he was corrupted by these favours; but in his position as a regulator he should never have allowed himself to be in such a position.

Because of the nature of the gambling industry, its policemen have to be sophisticated, hard and savvy, with not a trace of the naive or vulnerable. The head of Oflot should display the iron judgment that working in such an area demands. In both his actions and responses Mr Davis failed in this regard and should have been replaced.

There are wider lessons, too, from this embarrassment. Should one man or woman, however strong, be expected to stand up to the full wheedling and lobbying force of a giant industry? In America, panels of officials are appointed to regulate utilities. This helps to prevent fights between the regulator and the regulated being portrayed as clashes of personality. It would also have made Mr Davis's action less likely: peer pressure would have been brought to bear on a member of a panel taking unwise actions. Had such pressure failed, the removal of one panel member would not have seemed as drastic as the sacking of a regulator working alone.

There remains the question of whether the person who awards a contract should also oversee its operation. Mr Davis has a vested interest both in Camelot's success and in the reputation of GTech remaining unblemished. Should it ever turn out that GTech had acted dishonestly, that would bring Mr Davis's judgment into doubt. In the current rail privatisation, a franchiser awards franchises and a regulator then regulates the operators. Such a distinction is a healthy one.

The director-generals of all the regulatory bodies should be subject to much clearer rules about what is proper and improper conduct. In some American states, regulators have to make public every contact with each company that comes under their jurisdiction. Such openness ought to be routine for an operation that is designed to act in the interests of the public.

Instead in Britain we have secrecy and fog. Mr Davis's contract remains private and his guidelines unclear. All that he has agreed now to do is to seek guidance from the Department of National Heritage if potential conflicts of interest arise again. Given that last time the department gave him advice, he ignored it, this assurance fails to inspire confidence. So does Mrs Bottomley's decision to retain him.

KABUL CRUCIBLE

In the dust of Afghanistan grow the seeds of Islamic terror

When the United Nations negotiated the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in 1989, the long-combative country, free from foreign forces for the first time in a decade, looked set for some sort of political and economic revival. Seven years later, as our correspondent reports today, its capital lies in ruins. Hospitals, schools and mosques have been destroyed. Kabul is as shattered and desolate as Dresden after the bomber raids. Thousands of civilians have been killed by rockets raining down on the main cities; women and children have been mutilated by mines strewn in millions. The warring factions show no sign of readiness for peace. Afghanistan as a political entity has virtually ceased to exist.

From time to time the world has looked, incredulously, at the destruction wrought by the guerrilla gangs once hailed as freedom fighters. A United Nations peace plan was agreed which called for the resignation of President Rabbani and transitional arrangements to accommodate the demands of the feuding factions. But ceaseless warfare has brought all plans to nought. The President refused to quit. The factions, each professing a religious zeal that thrives on intransigence, would not make common cause. Weapons, purchased with drug money, continued to pour in to add to the pile left behind by the Russians.

Meanwhile, a new force has entered the confused battlefield: the Taleban, Islamic "students" professing an interest only in stopping the heroin trade and disarming the warlords. Their sweeping initial gains, meeting little resistance, took everyone by surprise. But their record has been less impressive. In those swaths of country they now control, they enforce a repressive regime. Their peaceful credentials have been undermined by their tactics on reaching Kabul, where the rump Government has put up stout resistance: they have fired rockets into civilian sectors as ruthlessly as Gulbuddin Hekmatayar, the warlord who was also once on the brink of capturing Kabul. And it is increasingly clear that the Taleban, far from being indigenous saviours, are largely the creation of Pakistan, desperate to ensure a friendly regime on its northwestern frontier.

Given the long history of tribal warfare and the remoteness of the country, there is a tendency to shrug at the endemic war and turn to more soluble problems. But the Afghan disaster is poisoning not only regional stability but inter-state relations on a much wider scale. Tajikistan is still struggling to contain the attacks of fundamentalist rebels taking shelter across the border. Pakistan is being drawn, inexorably, into the maelstrom. All intelligence reports on spreading Islamic militancy in the Middle East point to the common Afghanistan link, the place where Mujahidin have been trained and are still drawing strength and inspiration.

As often in these wretched situations, it is the Red Cross which hangs on, attempting to alleviate suffering when most others have abandoned the country. The Red Cross is doing a magnificent job in keeping going hospitals overwhelmed by casualties. Amid warfare, it is attempting to create civilian employment and reconciliation. Today it launches its Christmas appeal for the victims of this forgotten war: it is a call to which the world should respond generously.

MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD

One creature's sticky wicket is a heavenly hippo track

Into each life some rain must fall. And this usually happens just as England look like sneaking a draw from the jaws of defeat, or the converse, in a Test match. The torrential rains in South Africa have washed out the first two Tests in the current series and exasperated tourists who have flown to South Africa to escape the British winter. And when it has not been pouring, these sunshine swallow tourists have watched drizzle sweeping in from the ocean in fits and spouts, blinding the batsmen, loosening the grips of the bowlers, testing the pedantry of the umpires, and keeping the groundstaff running on and off with covers.

"Rain stopped play" used to be an incantation peculiarly associated with English cricket, on the lines of straight bats, keeping one's eye on the ball and sticky wickets. And traditionally Old Trafford used to be the ground for dogged masochists who preferred their cricket under a car-wash. But research by Simon Wilde on our sports pages demonstrates that Leeds and then Lord's have taken over from Manchester as the home wet-weather grounds. And that new sucking and squeegee technology for mopping up wet weather has made England a land where rain now seldom stops play. Sri Lanka, forced to stage matches during the monsoon to accommodate the dates of senior cricketing nations, is the wettest. In one Test at Kandy, only 12 overs were played over five days.

The final two Test matches in South Africa take place at Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, two of the driest grounds in the world. But meteorology is one of the many variables that make cricket the most interesting game. It would be a shame to have undeviating snooker-table wickets for the South African debut of Paul Adams, the frog-in-a-blender, back-breaking twister of phenomenal Chinamen, who introduces danger and difference to professional cricket.

This dim damp for cricketers has also brought life back to other exotic creatures of South Africa. Four years of drought have parched the land. This deluge has reintroduced green to the parched veld, and forced new shoots of maize, sunflowers and groundnuts. The rain, which has come down so hard that people are having to jump into rivers to stop themselves drowning, has saved the hippopotamus in the Kruger Park and other game reserves. These gentle leviathans with huge heads suffer in the heat, as do pigs and other animals that wallow rather than sweat. They are improbably thin-skinned, and are plagued by parasites when they cannot cool off in water or, at the worst, mud. New rains have made the hyenas frisky; new grass makes longer-living animal babies for lunch.

Complaining about rain is an English hobby as peculiar as cricket. But four years without it would change our complaint, as well as turning Yorkshire taps as dry as the Kalahari. May the cricketers enjoy uninterrupted play in South Africa over Christmas. But may there also be enough Kruger mist to keep the spinners and the hippos happy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Giving new hope to Brixton area

From Councillor Charles Elphicke

Sir, I watched from Lambeth Town Hall as Brixton was disrupted by the mob that looted shops, turned over cars and threw petrol bombs (reports, December 14, 15; leading article, December 15). It was not only the prospects of Brixton that went up in smoke: the effects will reverberate throughout the borough of Lambeth.

In my view there has been a clear failure of policy. Brixton City Challenge, which was introduced in 1985 to stimulate investment in the area, has failed to encourage local entrepreneurs. Government money in such deprived inner-city areas must be targeted to assist local start-up businesses to get through their difficult first year of trading.

Only by encouraging local people and assisting them in marketing their products will an employment base arise. Local opportunities will result in less vandalism and tension.

Government money should be spent on encouraging greater employment not just in Brixton but in the other deprived areas of Lambeth. That would sustain employment prospects rather than the "here today, gone tomorrow" jobs created by doling out government money.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES ELPHICKE,
London Borough of Lambeth,
Members' Room, Town Hall,
Brixton Hill, SW2.
December 18.

From Earl Russell

Sir, Those who remember the Brixton troubles of 1981 will remember the trouble caused by the "sus laws" under which people could be arrested on suspicion. I am surprised to find that in Clause 7 of the Asylum and Immigration Bill the Home Secretary proposes to introduce a power for constables to arrest people without warrant on suspicion of their being illegal immigrants.

Is it to be imagined that sensible police officers will wish to use these powers in Brixton?

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL
(Liberal Democrat Social
Security spokesperson),
House of Lords.
December 18.

From Mr Stephen Perry

Sir, Employed people tend to have neither the time, inclination nor the need to involve themselves in riots.

Until London-based businesses find a mechanism to employ young males from ethnic minorities, the potential for confrontations such as those we witnessed in Brixton will continue to exist.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN PERRY,
London Export (UK) Limited,
7 Swallow Place, W1.
December 15.

Costs against JPs

From the Chairman of the Central Council of Magistrates' Courts Committees

Sir, In the light of your correspondence (December 4, 6, 12, 13) on the award of costs against justices, it might also be appropriate to draw attention to the administrative problems that can arise in this respect for magistrates' courts committees.

The Justices of the Peace Act 1979 (as amended) provides that cost orders should be met from local funds. This raises two areas of concern: the possible inability of a magistrates' courts committee to manage its budget effectively in a cash-limited environment; and the danger that consent orders will be signed in order to negate costs but at the expense of justice.

At our conference in London last week, Mr Jonathan Evans, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, recognised our continuing concern. Constructive discussions are urgently needed.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WRIGHT,
Chairman,
Central Council of Magistrates'
Courts Committees,
79 New Cavendish Street, W1.
December 14.

Wheat tax

From Mr R. B. Coles

Sir, The European Commission, with no notice to the farming community and with virtually no press reporting, has just imposed a tax on wheat exports from the EU of £8.50 a tonne.

The effect of this will be to distort the grain market, increase world cereal prices, and thus make imports, mostly for the poorer nations, more expensive.

Is this what is intended?

Yours sincerely,
R. B. COLES,
Western Court,
Bishop's Sutton,
Alresford, Hampshire.
December 15.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Cuts threat to BBC World Service

From Mr G. H. Wigglesworth

Sir, I am alarmed by Peter Barnard's report (Arts, December 7) that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office proposes to reduce its investment in the World Service of the BBC over the next three years.

Your headline says, "A national asset under threat". Those who live and work abroad and listen to World Service broadcasts every day would see it as an international asset of unique value to those who want to hear the facts.

We have only to compare overseas broadcasts from some other countries to realise how free from propaganda the BBC World Service broadcasts are.

The threatened cut would be an act of treachery towards all those listeners who hear only doctored news from their national broadcasting stations and who rely on the BBC for the truth.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. WIGGLESWORTH,
53 Canonbury Park South, N1.
December 8.

From the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association

Sir, The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has recently announced the closure from March 31, 1996, of Radio Canada International, its counterpart to the BBC's World Service. Inaugurated in 1945, RCI has played a major role in spreading free and fair information round the world, and it will be greatly missed.

Canadians, who are among the richest people in the world both in per capita income and in the values that underpin a free society, owe it to far poorer and less privileged people to share their access to accurate and unbiased information. Their sane voice and their experience of living decently with ethnic diversity are needed in many areas of conflict.

The CBC, put in an impossible position by the cuts in their funding, have been forced to announce this decision. The responsibility, however, lies with Canada's Government, Parliament and people, and in particular with those who have a vision of Canada as something more than a rich man building a high wall around his property and disregarding the poverty and despair outside.

Radio Canada International had already been damaged over the years by progressive spending cuts. Britain should take care that it is not going down the same route.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SMITH,
Secretary-General,
Commonwealth Broadcasting
Association,
152-156 Great Portland Street, W1.
December 15.

From Dr John E. Dayton

Sir, I really must take issue with Ms Brenda Maddox and her article in praise of the BBC World Service (Media and Marketing, December 13). Having lived and worked overseas for the last 40 years, I suggest that Ms Maddox goes to some remote part of the world where there are no newspapers and tries to survive on the boring, politically correct rubbish the BBC puts out.

She would soon give up listening to the dreary *Play of the Week*, *Anything Goes* and poor Edward Greenfield tediously discussing obscure operas and even more obscure composers.

Thank God we now have satellite TV, with CNN, NBC and the excellent EuroNews. I suggest that it is time to close down this obsolete descendant of *Forces' Favourites*.

I remain, yours sincerely,
JOHN DAYTON,
Jardin del Sol, 136,
38350 Tenerife, Canary Islands.
December 17.

Dispute over 'safe' drinking limits

From Mr Andrew Barr

Sir, You were quite right in your editorial ("Cheers, Mr Dorrell!", December 13; see also letters, December 14, 18) to draw attention to the arbitrary nature of "safe" drinking limits. In the early 1980s British doctors were recommending that men drink a maximum of 56 units a week.

This was lowered to 21 by a working party in 1987. I was later informed by one member of this group that the new figure had simply been "pulled out of the air".

I wonder, however, whether you were right to suggest that the limit was set artificially low in an attempt to exaggerate the number of problem drinkers and thus extract more money from the Government "to combat this 'abuse'". People do not usually tell market researchers the truth about their alcohol consumption. Official drinking statistics, which are based on market research, tend only to account for 60 per cent of the alcohol that Customs and Excise knows has been sold. At whatever level the safe limit is set, the number of people believed officially to drink more than they should will always be too low.

The limits were set at 21 units for men and 14 for women in 1987 because doctors were convinced of a hypothesis called the "Ledermann theory", according to which the amount of harm caused by alcohol in any one country or society is directly related to the average consumption of that community. From this it follows that if you can reduce the amount that most people drink by persuading them to keep below a notional "safe limit", the scale of alcohol-related problems will also be reduced.

Although the Ledermann theory has never been proved, its adoption by the medical establishment explains not only the promulgation in Britain of ludicrously low "sensible drinking" levels but also the obsession of the World Health Organisation with the idea that less necessarily means better.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW BARR,
51 Donaldson Road, NW6.

From Mr R. H. Keys

Sir, Although drink-driving is an evil, Mr Graham Buxton, of the Campaign Against Drinking and Driving (letter, December 18), must not be allowed to misuse statistics so crassly without challenge. The fact that 14 per cent of drivers breath-tested by the police are over the legal alcohol limit is no warrant for his statement that "perhaps 14 out of every 100 drivers on our roads at any one time could be over the limit".

The police are supposed only to breath-test people when they are driving badly, or when they have other cause to believe that the driver is at fault. Breath-testing of drivers at 8.30am on a busy commuter road on a weekday morning would be extremely unlikely to reveal anybody over the limit. Mr Buxton's exaggeration is typical of the hysteria that in Britain surrounds the subject of drinking.

Yours sincerely,
R. H. KEYS,
11 Finchley Avenue,
Chelmsford, Essex.
December 19.

From Mr Jad Adams

Sir, My partner has shown years of self-restraint in not having that third glass of wine. Now she intends to make up for it by drinking all the ones she missed.

Yours sincerely,
JAD ADAMS,
2 Kings Garth,
29 London Road, SE23.

London treaties

From Mr K. C. E. Ellison Davis

Sir, As some of your correspondents (December 14) point out, there is not a single treaty of London. Leaving aside those of 1827 (Greek independence), 1852 (Schleswig-Holstein question), and 1867 (neutralisation of Luxembourg), most of which are now merely dates in history books, Britain's ratification of the Treaty of London of 1839, with its explicit guarantee of Belgian neutrality mentioned by Mr R. Bowen-Williams, ultimately led to the United Kingdom's involvement in the First World War.

Britain could have ignored its obligations under the treaty and have stood aside, but then, as Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, said in the House of Commons on August 3, 1914, "we should . . . sacrifice our respect and good name and reputation before the world".

War, not neutrality, was declared the following day; the rest is history. Stirring stuff, which rather puts in the shade the 1972 treaty on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ELLISON DAVIS,
Brahms Straat 2,
1077 HG Amsterdam,
The Netherlands.
December 14.

Penny foolish

From Mr Robert M. Brodtman

Sir, I am most grateful to Mr Barney Alterman (letter, December 13) for paying his tax amounting to 8p, as this apparently enabled Mr R. R. Martin, Principal Finance Officer of Inland Revenue, to send a repayment cheque of 8p in respect of income tax which the Inland Revenue calculated was due to my late wife.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT BRODTMAN,
The Cottage,
Chapel Green,
Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk.
December 13.

From Mr Jack Sewell

Sir, Unlike Mr Barney Alterman, who has had to pay 8p to the Inland Revenue, my wife, having recently cashed in about £2,000 worth of National Savings, has now received a cheque for 20p more.

In a full and detailed letter, the Head of Operations explains that ministers had decided to compensate savers for an error in the published RPI figure of -0.01 per cent, no matter how small the amount or the cost of sending it out.

Yours faithfully,
JACK SEWELL,
6 St Nicholas Court,
Childe Okeford, Dorset.

Funeral fashion past and present

From the Reverend Dr Peter Jupp, Director, National Funerals College

Sir, The Duke of Westminster's 1889 letter on "Overcrowded cemeteries" (On This Day, December 9) is of both historical and contemporary significance.

The Duke's advocacy of "earth to earth" (ie, coffinless) burial was not new. It had been vigorously canvassed from 1873 by the surgeon Francis Seymour Haden. Queen Victoria's surgeon, Sir Henry Thompson, formed the Cremation Society in 1874 and cremation was legalised ten years later.

The Duke selected the examples of Brompton cemetery (opened 1840) and Tower Hamlets (1841) which, despite being at the extreme ends of the social scale, both suffered from overcrowding and financial difficulties, to argue for burial reform. But he was not wholly disinterested. His letter praised "natural cremation", or decomposition, but he was already a convert to technological cremation. He had previously contributed to Woking Crematorium and, in May 1890, was to become President of the Manchester Crematorium Company, which opened England's second crematorium in 1892.

His theological position supported his cause. The belief he expresses in his letter that "man is not a body endowed with an immortal soul, but rather a spiritual being who has a body and who can never die" fits cremation practice like a glove. Burial practice had traditionally fitted the doctrine of bodily resurrection.

Several of the changes the Duke called for came about in time. Mourning fashion had begun to moderate earlier in the decade according to the declining sales figures for Courtaulds' crepe, and declined further during the First World War. Increasing use of cremation after the Second World War cut funeral expenses for many. As for land-use, the Audit Commission estimated in 1989 that cremation saves 200 acres each year. Cemeteries cover more than 16,000 acres of England and Wales.

The Duke's letter is of particular interest now, as our funeral industries and services are experiencing enormous change. This year, *Which?*, the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission have all investigated funeral costs. Bereavement-support and funeral-reform groups have drawn attention to people's needs at funeral times and to the importance of greater price and ownership transparency among funeral-directing firms.

Most topically, 30 per cent of people still prefer burial but local authorities are running short of burial land. Within three years five London boroughs will have no space for new graves.

To attempt a solution the Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration has just published its survey of public attitudes, *Reusing Old Graves*, a policy to which nearly three fifths of respondents gave support. The challenge of 1889 may yet be met.

Yours faithfully,
PETER JUPP, Director,
The National Funerals College,
Braddan House,
High Street, Duddington,
Stamford, Lincolnshire.
December 11.

Sport on TV

From Mr Gareth Boote

Sir, Mr Ralph Glazer (letter, December 18) wonders whether the races will be stopped for commercial breaks when ITV takes over the broadcasting of Formula One. Has he not noticed the saturation of sponsors' advertisements on the cars, the drivers and the track?

Formula One *is* the commercial break.

Yours faithfully,
GARETH BOOTE,
13 Batheaston Grove,
Leigh, Lancashire.
December 18.

Penny wise

From Mr Peter Wells

Sir, The birth of the euro in 1999 (report, December 18) will, as your columns have suggested, bring attendant semantic problems.

Some countries, for various reasons, will fail to meet the criteria and consequently be unable to euronate. They will be diagnosed, one presumes, as suffering from NSE, or non-specific eurothritis, a disabling complaint, but not irreversible.

What concerns me more is the threat to the British use of philology to disguise the fact that they are not exempt from the need to exercise their bodily functions. "Spending a penny", for example, has a impeccable record for saving English-speakers from embarrassment.

It should be abundantly clear to the European Commissioners that "spending a euro" cannot possibly serve this end, since the word resembles too closely the very function it is intended to conceal.

On this ground alone I feel we should be fully justified in exercising our right to secede from the contemplated union.

Yours faithfully,
P. P. L. WELLS,
15 Sunnyside Road, Worcester.
December 19.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 19: The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 19: The Prince of Wales this morning held a meeting at Highgrove House with the Mayor of Tetbury and others to discuss the development of the old railway goods yard in Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Gloucester Central and Barton Street Police Stations to meet Police Officers and representatives of the local community.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Police Convalescent Home, Flint House, Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

His Royal Highness, President, the Bach Choir, this evening attended a Recital at St James's Palace.

YORK HOUSE
December 19: The Duchess of Kent this evening attended the Annual Christmas Celebration, Westminster Cathedral, Francis Street, London SW1.

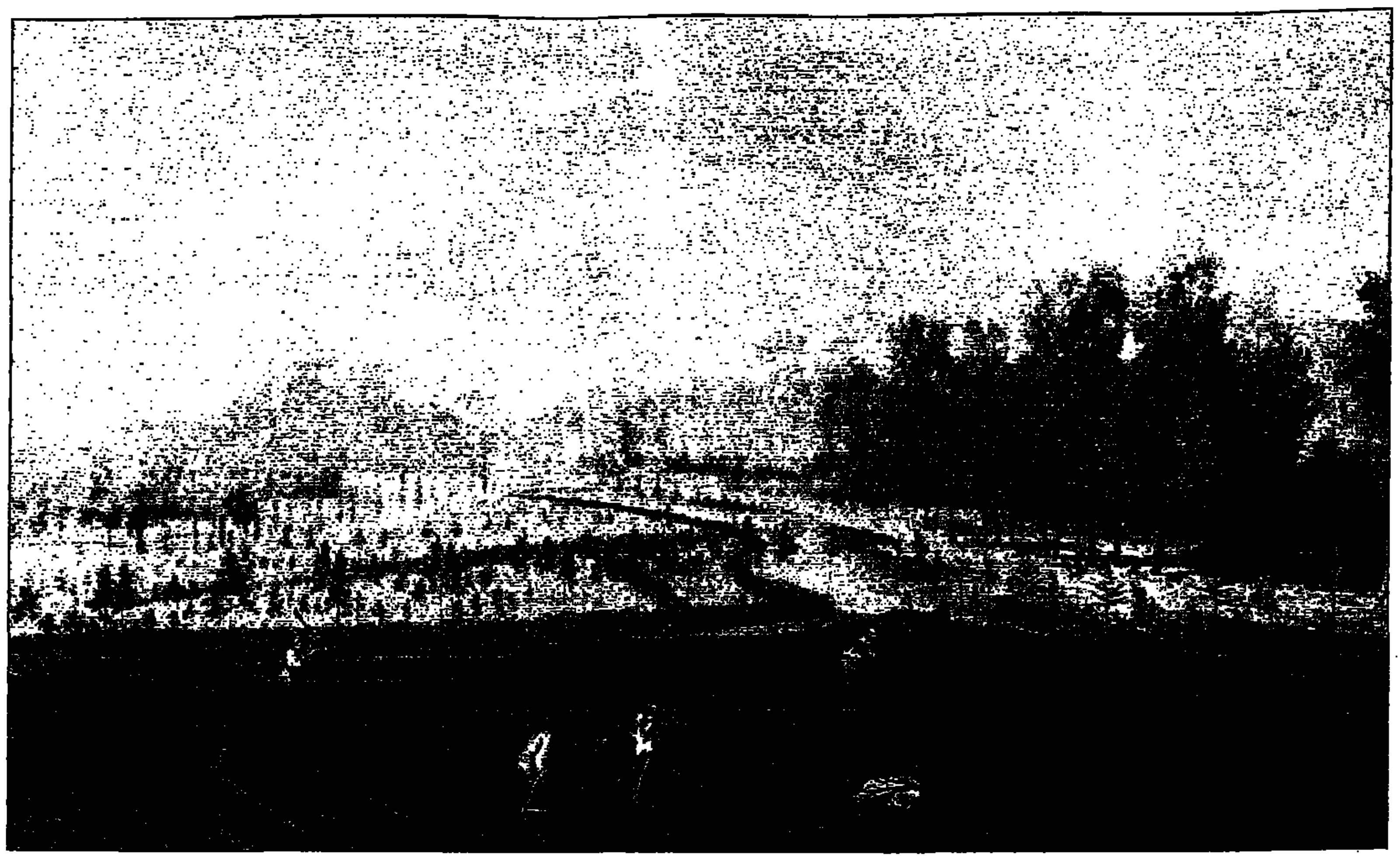
THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 19: Princess Alexandra, President, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Concert of Christmas Carols and Readings in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in Glasgow Cathedral and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Tommy Dingwall, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales as President of Business in the Community, will visit the Gatehouse Centre, Hartclive Road, Hartcliffe Estate, Bristol, at 11.20; will visit The Soil Association, 86 Colston Street, at 12.55; and will visit Rexam Medical Packaging at Winterbourne Road, Stoke Gifford, at 2.15.

Evangeline Bruce

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Evangeline Bruce will be held in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1 at noon on Wednesday, December 20.



A View of the Gardens of Chiswick House by Rysbrack was commissioned by Lord Burlington for whom the house was built

Painting returns to its old home after 250 years

By John Shaw

A "LOST" 18th-century painting of the gardens at Chiswick House, Hounslow, has been reunited with the view it depicts after an absence of more than 250 years.

The painting's whereabouts had been unknown since it was sold at auction in 1952. It went into an anonymous private collection, but reappeared in the sale room again at Christie's in London last month.

The study was bought by Richard Green, the London dealer, for just over £50,000 which he considered a bargain for such a significant picture. Mr Green then offered it for the same price to English Heritage which looks after Chiswick House. It was able to buy *A View of the Gardens at Chiswick*, by Pieter Andreas Rysbrack (1690-1748), with the help of grants from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the National Art Collections Fund, the London Historic House Museums Trust, and the Friends of Chiswick House.

The painting went on public display yesterday, and fulfilled the ambition of Julius Bryant, director of collections for English Heritage, who had long been searching for the picture to restore it to Chiswick.

He said: "I am delighted to see it back at the house just yards away from the spot where the artist must have stood to sketch it. It is one of a set of eight views of the garden which Rysbrack was commissioned to paint by Lord Burlington for whom Chiswick was built between 1727 and 1729."

Two others turned up in the 1980s, and they were restored to the house together with a third painting by George Lambert, the first English Landscape artist. The three hang around the walls of the octagonal saloon in the centre of the house. "But until today, we had a gap," he said. "Now the panorama is complete. One can stand in the middle of the room and enjoy the 18th-century vista in all four directions."

Chiswick is an architectural gem. The house and *its striking landscape* were the combined vision of Lord Burlington and William Kent, the famous English architect. The house was the first of a number of celebrated collaborations between the two men, arguably the greatest patron and the greatest designer of their day.

Chiswick set a standard and began a fashion for neo-Palladian architecture in England. The picture shows an early stage in the design of the gardens and comes from one of two sets of eight commissioned by Lord Burlington soon after their completion.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L. Chapman
and Miss K.J. Harris
The engagement is announced between Lawrence, younger son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Chapman, of Carmarthen, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Harris, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Major W.R.H. Cobham
and Miss J.A. Lowe
The engagement is announced between Bill, son of the late R.H. Cobham and of Mrs R.H. Cobham, of Uley, Gloucestershire, and Judy, only daughter of the late A.R. Lowe and of Mrs A.R. Lowe, of Great Barr, Birmingham.

Mr J. Donat
and Miss H.E. Owen
The engagement is announced between Jasper, son of Annabel and John Donat, and Harriet, daughter of Mervyn Owen.

Mr R.J.H. Edwards
and Mlle C. Wapler
The engagement is announced between Richard Julian Henshaw, son of Mr and Mrs Graham H. Edwards, of Southwell, Nottinghamshire, and Claire, daughter of the late M le Docteur and Mme Claude Wapler, of Paris.

Mr B.A.H. Figgis
and Miss J.K. Little
The engagement is announced between Benedict, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Figgis, of Barnes, London, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Little, of Rood Ashton, Wiltshire.

Captain M.E. Lapping
and Miss J.M. Jarvis
The engagement is announced between Captain Mark Lapping, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Lapping, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Jessica, middle daughter of the late Drs *Edward* and *Sandra Jarvis*, of Horsley, Northumberland.

Mr B.J.C. Moore
and Miss H.M.L. French
The engagement is announced between Benjamin John Christopher, son of Dr and Mrs John Moore, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Helen Mary Luise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard French, of Limpsfield, Surrey.

Mr C.I.T. White-Thomson
and Miss L.J. Croft
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher White-Thomson, of Baggaretts, White Colne, Essex, and Louisa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Croft, of Ninhams Wood, Farnborough, Kent.

Mr W.G.W. Loram
and Miss R. Rajah
The engagement is announced between William, second son of Mr and Mrs R. Loram, of Brightlingsea, Essex, and Rehana, youngest daughter of the late Mr A.A. Rajah and of Mrs I.B. Rajah, of London and Lahore.

Mr A.M. Norris
and Miss D.M. Ennor
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Dr and Mrs Robin Norris, of Ringmer, East Sussex, and Dianne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Ennor, of Napier, New Zealand.

Dr A.W. Thomas
and Dr S.M. Bell
The engagement is announced between Alun, son of Mr and Mrs Gethryn Thomas, of Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan, and Susan, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs Raymond Bell, of Fovant, Wiltshire.

Marriages

Mr F.D.S. Chapman
and Lady Sarah Fortescue
A service of blessing was held yesterday at Chelsea Old Church after the marriage of Mr Francis Chapman, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Chapman, of Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, to Lady Sarah Fortescue, daughter of the late Earl Fortescue and of Mrs Jocelyn Hambro, of Oddington, Gloucestershire. Canon Peter Elvy officiated.

A reception was held at 30 Pavilion Road.

Mr J. C. Wilkins
and Miss L. Brassey
The marriage took place yesterday at St Luke's, Chelsea, of Mr Jeremy Wilkins, son of Mr and Mrs Denis Wilkins, of Maidstone, Kent, to Miss Louise Brassey, daughter of the Hon Thomas and *Mrs Brassey, of Duncote*, Northamptonshire. The Rev Derek Watson officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mr Colin Day was best man.

A reception was held at the Lanesborough Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D. Zecevic
and Miss N.J. Richardson
The marriage between Mr Danilo Zecevic, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ilija Zecevic, of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and Miss Nicola Jayne Richardson, daughter of the late Mr Barry John Richardson and of Mrs June Richardson, of Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, will take place today, at the Ritz Hotel, in London.

Birthdays today

Mr Bill Abbott, former Governor, Pentonville prison, 54; Miss Jenny Agutter, actress, 43; Mr Michael Beaumont, Seigneur of Sark, 68; Lord Brabazon of Tara, 49; Mr Simon Channing, former chairman, London Philharmonic, 35; Sir George Coldstream, QC, 88; Mr Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 48; Mr Peter Cundell, racehorse trainer, 47; Mr Charles Denton, television and film producer, 58; Mr D.F. Gardner, chairman, Brixton Estate, 52; the Earl of Harrowby, 73; Mrs Ros Hepplewhite, former chief executive, Child Support Agency, 43; Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, 69; Mr Justice Lightman, 56; Baroness Thomas of Walliswood, 60; Miss Rachel Trickett, former Principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 72; Mr Karl Wendlinger, racing driver, 27; Mr John Whitney, former director-general, IBA, 65; Mr John Wilkins, Editor, *The Tablet*, 59.

Luncheon

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Mr Erik Derycke, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

University news

Liverpool
An honorary degree of Doctor of Science, Liverpool University, has been conferred upon Professor Ben Mottelson, winner of the Nobel prize for Physics in 1975.

Appointment

Mr William Fullerton has been appointed Ambassador to Morocco from April. He succeeds Sir Allan Ramsay who is retiring.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Jenny Lister, Assistant Curate, Lichfield St Michael: to be Priest-in-charge, Yoxall (Lichfield).
The Rev David Long, Vicar, St James, Westbrook: to be Vicar, St Mary, Ince-in-Makerfield (Liverpool).
The Rev Canon Michael McAdam: to be Rural Dean of Oundle (Peterborough).
The Rev Ulla Monberg, Area Director of Ordinands and Dean of Women's Ministry for London and Kensington Areas: to be *also* Associate Vicar, St John, Hyde Park (London).
The Rev Christopher Moss, Curate, Malvern, Holy Trinity and St James: to be Vicar, Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley, Queenhill w Holdfast (Worcester).
The Rev Norman Price, Minor Canon and Precentor of Bury St Edmunds Cathedral (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Vicar, Parr (Truro).
The Rev Alastair Ross, Vicar, Halifax: now *also* Rural Dean of Halifax (Wakefield).
The Rev Patrick Sales, Vicar, Herne: to be Priest-in-charge, Hoath (Canterbury).
The Rev Christine Shillaker, Assistant in the parish of Colchester, New Town and The Hythe: to be Priest-in-charge, Ramsey w Little Oakley (Chelmsford).
The Rev John Stride, Assistant Curate, Ashstead (Guildford): to be Vicar, Lodge Moor, Sheffield (Sheffield).
The Rev Dr Angus Stuart, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham (London): to be Senior Anglican Chaplain, University of Bristol and Honorary Curate, St Paul, Clifton (Bristol).
The Rev Jill Waters, Assistant Curate, Draycott le Moors and Forsbrook: to be Priest-in-charge, Mow Cop (Lichfield).

Dinners

Turners' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests of honour at a dinner given by the Master and Wardens of the Turners' Company last night at Apothecaries' Hall. Eur Ing G.M. Sloan, Master, presided and presented the Lord Mayor with a turned blackwood box. The Lord Mayor, Mr J.N. Ciclitira, Upper Warden, and Captain John Gray, Master of the Master Mariners' Company, also spoke.

A guard of honour was found by the 78 Engineer Regiment REME (Volunteers), who were presented with the Turners' shield.

The Old Portmuthian Club
Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, KCB, CBE, LVO, RAF (OP), and the Headmaster of the Portsmouth Grammar School, Mr A.C.V. Evans, were guests of honour at the Annual Dinner held last Saturday at the school. Mr Ian Smart presided. 160 members and guests attended.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Graham, chemist, Glasgow, 1805; Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-41 and 1949-66, Jeparit, Victoria, 1894; George, Duke of Kent, Sandringham House, Norfolk, 1902.

DEATHS: James Hilton, novelist, Long Beach, California, 1954; John Steinbeck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1962, New York, 1968; Bobby Darin, singer, songwriter and actor, Hollywood, 1973; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, Geneva, 1982.

The first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1560.

Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was proclaimed President of France, 1848.

Latest wills

Brigadier Raymond Ladais **Sandover**, of Richmond, Surrey, formerly of Sanderstead, retired company director, chairman of the Fairbridge Society, and who commanded the 6th Australian Brigade 1943-45, left estate valued at £215,205 net.

Mr William Kenton **Wrigley**, of Kinver, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £835,728 net.
He left £4,500, effects and a life interest in his home to personal legatees, and the residue to form the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity for the benefit of the people of Kinver.

Mr Jonathan Ronald **Raine**, of Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, left estate valued at £733,472 net. He died intestate.

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Many waters cannot quench love, no flood can sweep it away; if someone were to offer for love all the wealth in his house, it would be laughed to scorn.
Song of Solomon 8 : 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

BOON - On December 14th 1995, to Joanna and Julian, a son, Ruairidh Scott Wheatley, a brother for Sarah.

CAMPBELL - On 19th December 1995, at Stirling Royal Infirmary, to Rosie and Alastair, a son, Alexander Nickson.

CUNNINGHAM - On December 16th 1995, to Joanna (née Sheehy) and Hadyn, a daughter, Olivia Ann Marie.

DAVIES - On December 18th, to Nicky (née Evans) and Nick, a daughter, Emilia Clare, a precious gift from God.

DINGLEY - On 15th December at Wycombe General Hospital, to Jacqueline (née Waller) and Rupert, a son, Oliver Ian Kenneth.

HERRIOTT - To Lynne and Anthony on 8th December, a son, Dominic James, a brother for Sarah.

HOOGEWERF - On December 9th, to Jan and Ben, a son, Alexander Bernard Peter, a brother for Johnnie.

ILLINGWORTH - On 15th December 1995 at University College Hospital, London, to Kirsten Salt and Stephen Illingworth, a son, Oscar Hugh.

MENDOZA/CRAMER - On 17th December 1995, to Miles and Lynne, a son, Henry Max.

OBIRI - On December 14th 1995 at Wellington Hospital, to Veronica and Eric, a son, Nathan.

REDICAN - On December 18th, to Jill (née Colley) and Michael, a son, Thomas Michael.

RUSSELL - On 16th December, to Mandy (Warnford-Davis) and Dick Russell, a daughter, Eleanor May Alice, a sister for Felix.

SPRECKLEY - On December 12th 1995, to Anna (née Ecroyd) and James, a daughter, Honor Thursa.

STOKES-RHYS - On December 13th 1995, to Philippa (née Tayler) and Rhodri, a daughter, Araminta Alice.

WHITELEY - On December 17th 1995, to Juliette and Justin, a son, Tom.

DEATHS

BENJAMIN - On 18th December, after a long illness at The French Convalescent Home and at a time of his own choosing, Joe aged 74, remembered with affection and humour by family and friends. Private cremation. A celebration of his life will be held in the new year. No flowers but donations, if desired, to French Convalescent Home, De Courcel Road, Brighton.

BISHOP - Cicelie Maxwell, peacefully in hospital on 18th December 1995. Late of St Margarets Twickenham.

BOND - Richard (Dick) M.B.E., formerly of the Coldstream Guards, suddenly at his home on Sunday 17th December 1995 aged 76 years. Beloved husband of the late Doris, a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday 27th December at St Michael at the Northgate Church, Oxford, at 1 pm followed by cremation at Oxford Crematorium at 2 pm. Family flowers only. If desired donations to British Heart Foundation c/o A.W. Bruce, 29 Rogers Street, Summertown, Oxford.

BROCKLESS - On 18th December 1995, Brian, Musician, dearly loved husband of Jenny, father to Adrian and Julian. Funeral Service at St Bartholomew the Great London, on Friday 22nd December at 10.30 am. All enquiries to Robert Ayling Funeral Services, tel: (01483) 667333.

BRODRICK - Elisabeth Venetia Marian of Chatsworth Court, Pembroke Road, W8 and Silver Lane, Padworth Common, Berkshire. Funeral private. Memorial Service at St Mark's Church, Englefield, Reading on Saturday February 3rd 1996 at 12 noon.

CRASTER - Barbara Evelyn of Chipping Campden, Glos. Daughter of the late Sir Edmund and Lady Craster. On 18th December. Funeral Service on 28th December, 11 am at Cheltenham Crematorium. No flowers.

DAWSON - Alexander Michael, F.R.C.O.G., died at Fremington Manor, Barnstaple, on 14th December 1995 aged 76. Husband of the late Henrietta and loving father of Alexander and brother of David. Funeral at Martin Memorial Church Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, at 11.30 am on Thursday 21st December. Flowers to McCree Undertaker, Stornoway. Memorial Service to be announced later to be held in North Devon.

DICK - On December 17th 1995, Marjorie Browning, daughter of the late William and the late Theodora Browning Dick of London. Funeral Service Bournemouth Crematorium Thursday, December 28th at 1.15 pm. Enquiries to Preston & Redman, Solicitors, Hinton House, Hinton Road, Bournemouth (01202 292424). Cut flowers, or if preferred donations for Barnardos, may be sent to Derie-Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, 755 Christchurch Road, B'mouth, BH7 6AN.

DOW - Dorothy May, peacefully on December 18th in Leamington Spa, aged 86, widow of the late Judge Ronald Dow. Loved by her family: Graham and Molly; Andrew and Miriam, Alastair, Jamie, Lindsay and Mark, Michael; Jennie and Caroline. Funeral 22nd December. Enquiries to family or F/D Rathbone, tel: (01926) 425331.

DUN - Elizabeth, died in Charing Cross Hospital London, 18th December 1995 after a short illness. Dearly loved sister of Mavis. Cremation at Mortlake, Wednesday 3rd January 1996 12.30 pm. All welcome. Single flowers only please or donations in lieu. Enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors, (0171) 352-0008.

FOULSHAM - On 17th December 1995, Gwendoline, youngest daughter of Hester and Amy Foulsham, sister of Daisy Denniford. Funeral Reading Crematorium Wednesday 27th December 11.30 am. Family flowers only, but if wished donations to Multiple Sclerosis Society for Research, 25 Effie Road, London SW6 1EE.

FOWLEY - Patrick James of Uckfield and formerly of Brighton and Somerset. Funeral Service at St Philip Neri R.C. Church, Uckfield on 2nd January 1996 at 2.30pm, followed by interment at Paul Churchyard Cornwall on 3rd January. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to St Peter & St James Hospice, c/o Cooper & Son, 11 New Town, Uckfield tel: (01825) 763763.

FREESTONE - Basil peacefully in Castle Hill Hospital on 16th December aged 85 years. Beloved husband of Edith, much loved father of Susan, David and Lucinda. Funeral Service at Hull Crematorium on Thursday 21st December at 11.45 am. No flowers by request but donations if so desired to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o R. Cogan & Sons Funeral Directors, Station Road, North Ferriby, East Yorkshire HU14 3DJ.

GORING - Lady Judith Rachel Walton, at home on December 18th 1995, after a courageous fight against illness. Beloved wife of William, devoted and greatly loved mother of Lucy and Ben Morison and dearly loved daughter of the Reverend John Morris. Funeral private. Memorial Service will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on Thursday January 11th 1996 at 12 noon. Donations may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o T.H. Sanders & Son, 447 Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14 7PR.

GRAY-CHEAPE - Diana on 18th December at home in Forfar, loving sister of Carsina, Barbara and Leslie, a much loved aunt and great-aunt. Funeral at St John's *Episcopal* Church Forfar at 10.45 am on Saturday December 23rd. Cremation thereafter private. Donations in lieu of flowers to St John's Church.

HARRAP - Elizabeth Giles (Betty) of Lisvane, on Sunday December 17th at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff after a short illness; a much loved aunt, great-aunt and friend. Funeral service at St Denys Church Lisvane, on Friday December 22nd at 2 pm afterwards at Thornhill Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C., 9 Brindley Road, Cardiff CF1 7TX.

HELLICAR - Yvonne Hilary (née Fenby). Peacefully at home in London, on 16th December. Dearly loved wife of the late Rev. Arnold Hellicar, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Thanks be to God. Funeral Friday 22nd December 3 pm at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington W8. Funeral Directors Ballard, tel: (0171) 370-6271.

HERBERT - Josiah Gwyn. Peacefully in Chepstow Community Hospital. On 19th December 1995 aged 85 years. Beloved husband of the late Cissie and much loved father of Jackie. Funeral Service in Brecon Cathedral on Wednesday December 27th at 1 pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if so desired for Chepstow Community Hospital c/o Peter Evans Funeral Director, Brookfield, Brecon, Powys. (01874) 665608.

JOHNSTON - Captain John Richard Cox Johnston C.B.E. R.N. retired, on 16th December 1995 after a most courageous fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Audrey, father of Vivien and Colin, grandfather of Julia, Mark and Rebecca. Service at St Laurence Church, Affpuddle on Friday 22nd December at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Joseph Weld Hospice, c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 16 Princes Street, Dorchester DT1 1TW, tel: (01305) 262338.

LANGDON - On December 17th peacefully at home in Bexhill-on-Sea, Sheela Langdon (née O'Halloran) aged 85. Mother of Fruzan and Wilmot. Cremation at Eastbourne on Thursday December 28th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Britain-Nepal Medical Trust, c/o Mummery Funeral Directors, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

MacKENZIE - Alexander Hugh, Squadron Leader (Rtd.) - aged 71 - peacefully at home on December 16th after a long illness courageously borne. Beloved husband of Freda and brother of Will. Funeral to be held on Thursday 28th December at 9.45 am at St Michael's Church, Highworth, Wilts, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired for RAF Benevolent Fund or Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o A.E. Baker & Sons, Highworth, Wilts. SN6 7RR (Tel: 01793-764664).

MARTIN - On 17th December 1995 Nancy aged 83 years. Dear wife of the late Goff. Much loved mother to Claire and Tim. Dear grandmother of Andrew, Philip, Alexander and Charlie. Her funeral service takes place at the Parish Church of St Mary, Bury St Edmunds, on Friday 22nd December at 1pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations may be sent for Ward G2 Pegasus Bed Fund at The West Suffolk Hospital c/o L. Fulcher, 80 Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1NX.

MASTERMAN - On December 15th Elizabeth (Betty) Joan. Peacefully at North Hampshire Hospital Basingstoke following a heart attack. Loved sister of Christopher and Kate and aunt of John. Funeral Service at 11.45 am Friday 22nd December at St Mary's Church, Greywell, followed by cremation at Aldershot Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C. c/o A.W. Goddard, Kent Road, Fleet, tel: (01252) 616451.

MAYLES - Doris Mary (née Mercer) on 16th December aged 84. Devoted wife of the late William Mayles, mother of Philip and Grandma of Sarah and Helena. Funeral at 10 am on Friday 22nd December at St Gertrude's Roman Catholic Church, Purley Road, Croydon. Family flowers only. Enquiries and donations, if desired, to the Stroke Association, or the Parkinson's Disease Society, c/o J.B. Shakespeare, 67 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1LD, tel: (0181) 688-1447.

NICHOLL - David Shelley, on 8th December 1995 aged 71, suddenly at home, much loved father of Adrian and brother of Dodo and Teddy. Will be sadly missed by Jill and Suzanne, and by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 22nd December 1995 at 2pm. Flowers to Huxley Funeral Service, Feckenham Road, Astwood Bank, Redditch, tel: (01527) 893698.

ORMSBY - Ivy May "Gina" passed away at Ludshott Manor Bramshott, Hants., on 14th December 1995, aged 75 years. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her in England and Guernsey. Cremation at 12 noon on 28th December at Chichester Crematorium. Funeral Directors Luffs of Haslemere, Surrey.

PARIS - On December 18th 1995 peacefully at a nursing home near Winchester, Winifred Anna Blanche (née Richardson) aged 80 years, wife of Cecil, mother of Jean, James and Tom and grandmother of Robert, Mark, Nicky, Alec, Michael, Susan and Katie. Funeral Service at Compton Parish Church, near Winchester, on Thursday December 28th at 3.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to The Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester, SO23 0HU.

PEARSON - On December 18th 1995 peacefully at St George's Nursing Home, Cobham, Surrey, Mary Caroline, dearly beloved wife of Andrew, loving mother of Christopher and the late Barbara, fond grandmother of Dermot, Sean, Iain, Vahri, Iona and Carron. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Friday January 5th at 11.30 am.

ROBERTSON - Strum Arnott peacefully on Friday 15th December 1995 in Kingsway Hospital, Derby, aged 94 years, husband of the late Margaret Mathieson and much loved father and grandfather of son John, Jennifer and children Andrew and Emily. Retired teacher of the University of London. Funeral at Bretby Crematorium on Thursday 21st December at 11 am. Memorial Service to be arranged in Edinburgh.

SANGSTER - Margaret Martha (Peggie), aged 84, on December 19th in Arrowe Park Hospital, Wirral, peacefully after a short illness. Thanksgiving Service at St Hildeburgh's Church, Hoylake, on Friday 22nd December at 11 am. No flowers please by request. Donations if so desired to Save the Children Fund.

STENHOUSE - On 19th December, peacefully at the Sussex Nuffield Hospital, Truth. Dearly loved wife, mother, grandmother and sister and a faithful friend to many. Funeral Service on Thursday 28th December at 2.30 pm Westdene Church East Sussex, followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers and enquiries to Cooper & Son Funeral Services, Lewes. Tel: (01273) 475557 or (01825) 763763.

STEVENSON - On December 18th 1995, Mary Moir aged 83 years of Chipping Campden, peacefully after a short illness, dearly loved wife of Colin, mother of Martin, Hugh and Mary and grandmother to Paul, Helen, Isobel, Hannah, Rupert, Sarah and Ian. Funeral Service at Chipping Campden Parish Church at 1.30 pm on Friday 22nd December. Family flowers only but donations in lieu if desired for Campden Home Nursing Trust to Keyte & Son, Paxford, Campden, Glos. GL55 6XD.

TWYMAN - George Irvine Finch aged 75 years, after a bravely fought battle on December 17th, greatly loved husband of Julia and the late Susan Beresford-Jones, much loved father and grandfather. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Charing Crematorium, near Ashford, Kent, on December 22nd at 4.40 pm. Family flowers only please or donations to the R.N.L.I. (Weymouth) c/o Hogben and Partis Ltd., 37 Stone Street, Faversham, ME13 8PH. tel: (01795) 532519.

WALKINSHAW - Margaret peacefully at home on December 18th following a brave fight against a long illness, beloved wife of James, loving mother of Susan, Fiona and Alison and devoted grandmother of Duncan. Cremation at Amersham Crematorium on Saturday 23rd December at 10 am. Family only. Thereafter a Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 2 pm in St John's "United Reformed" Church, Northwood, to which all friends are warmly invited. No flowers please. Donations to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

WATKINSON - On December 19th, Harold Arthur, Viscount Watkinson of Woking, PC, CH., aged 85. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity, Bosham, 2.15 pm on Thursday December 28th for family and friends, followed by private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving in London to be announced later. Family flowers only please

WEISS - Peter, on 13th December 1995 at home, suddenly of a heart attack. Beloved father of David, Simon and Deborah and grandfather of Angela, James, Ariana and Jacob. The funeral will take place at Edgwarebury Cemetery, nr. Edgware on Thursday 21st December at 12 noon. No flowers please, but donations to British Heart Foundation.

WEST - In peace and safety in the Drapers Wing of St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, on December 16th 1995, Elizabeth Stuart West. Cremation private. Thanksgiving at St Katharine's Church, Merstham, on Friday 12th January at 2.15 pm.

WRIGHTON - Margaret, on December 19th, peacefully at Court Lodge Nursing Home Lymington. Much loved mother of the late Robert and grandmother of Anthony and Louise. Funeral Service on December 27th at 3.30pm at Bournemouth Crematorium. Enquiries to Diamond & Son, tel: (01590) 672060.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CAMERON - James Munro, B.A. Oxon. (Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto) - at Toronto, Canada, on Thursday, December 14th, 1995, James Munro Cameron, beloved husband of the late Vera. Dear father of Bridget of California and the late Mark. Loving grandfather of Mary Bridget, John James, Catherine, Thomas, George, Jane and Anne. Dear brother of Sheila Smith. Private cremation. A memorial mass will be held at St Basil's Church in Toronto on Saturday, January 6th, 1996, at 10.30 am. Arrangements entrusted to Rosar-Morrison Funeral Home, Toronto.

LOUDON - Anne. A Memorial Service will be held at the Brompton Oratory, London, at 11 am on Friday 16th February 1996.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

CARPENTER - Miss V.E. Formerly of Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School, Islington. Remembered particularly today and through the Christmas period. B.V.F and family.

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هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

MARY LASCELLES

Mary Lascelles, FBA, literary critic, teacher and poet, died on December 10 aged 95. She was born on February 7, 1900.

MOST of Mary Lascelles's professional career was spent in Oxford as English tutor at Somerville College. She was one of those dons who leave an indelible impression on their pupils.

Mary Madge Lascelles was born on the Caribbean island of Grenada where her father, William Horace, a younger son of the 4th Earl of Harewood, had an estate on which he grew sugar, cocoa and limes. Although her parents returned to England when their first child was three, Lascelles was to keep with her all her life her West Indian memories of colour and light.

After some instruction from governesses, she went at the age of 15 to Sherborne Girls' School and then on in 1919 to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. She taught briefly at Royal Holloway College in London University and in 1931 was appointed tutor in English at Somerville College, where she was made a fellow the following year. She remained a tutor for 30 years and served as Vice-Principal from 1947, only giving up that post in 1960 on becoming a university lecturer. Her promotion to a Readership in 1966, entailing the loss of both tutorial teaching and of her rooms in college, gave less pleasure than her election to the British Academy in 1962. She retired in 1967.

A rigorous scholar, Lascelles's commanding values were order, clarity and precision — both in thought and language. Her abhorrence was jargon: the jargon of the professional literary critic most of all. Jane Austen, whose art she depicted as a growth from critical discrimination to human insight, was her model. But the authors who held her love were the large, generous, humane figures of Shakespeare, Johnson and Scott.

A study of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* appeared in 1953, followed in 1971 by an edition of Johnson's *Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland*. A collection of essays published in 1972 under the characteristic "Lascellian" title of *Notions and Facts* contains her Walter Scott lectures, given in Edinburgh in 1960. Her last major work, *The Story-teller Retrieves the Past* (1980), is a study of the historical imagination in Scott, Stevenson and Kipling.

But the book with which Lascelles made her name in 1939, *Jane Austen and Her Art*, was her first publication and remains her best-known work. Written after R. W. Chapman's pioneering editions of Austen's novels and letters, it set a new standard in Austen criticism, applying Henry James's ideas on the art of the novel. Its appearance was greeted by an unprecedented first leader and a lengthy review in the *Times Literary Supplement*; more than 50 years later the book still sells well.

A fascination with the figure and the art of the story-teller was lifelong. What always interested Lascelles was the writer's dependence on a range of allusion shared with reader and society: what she feared was the loss of the community of shared reference. As a scholar, she knew herself to be "caught in the web of words", and her writing was rich in allusion. But the poems she wrote in later life speak of unheard words, of words that "must perish in air", of disenchantment with words.

The waste of words pained Lascelles and caused a corresponding terror in her pupils, only reinforced by the occasional arch insight that she granted into her own "errors": of how, returning on the Paddington to Oxford train it had been reassuring to find a carriage marked "Reading", but how vexing it had been to discover it was not set aside for passengers wishing to settle undisturbed with their books; or again of how, as an assistant lecturer at Royal Holloway College, she had once reached the end of a lecture on Shakespeare only to realise that she had throughout consistently misnamed its tragic hero, and so consequently heard herself announcing to her students, by way of conclusion: "For Apollo read Othello."

The mixture of awe and anxiety that she inspired remained undiminished even once it was intimated that a pupil might call her by her Christian name. Invitations to tea (at precisely half-past-four) in her north Oxford house were received with greater alarm than supervision sessions because they meant more opportunities for blunders — not only the fear of solecism but of spilling jam on the white tablecloth (and it always did spill), or drinking one's tea too quickly, or the awkward question coming just as the scone had been bitten into: "Do tell me, which do you say, relatives or relations?"

Yet such memories do not tell it all. Lascelles was a strong influence over many years on Somerville and a generous benefactor to the college and English Faculty libraries. Her severity as a teacher was matched by great kindnesses and a pride in the subsequent fortunes of her pupils. In later years, as she struggled with increasing blindness and the fear of having outlived her usefulness, she saw with distaste the rise of a world of doctoral researchers and career academics. But never once did she withhold her support or encouragement.

Mary Lascelles never married.

KONRAD ZUSE

Konrad Zuse, computer pioneer, died on December 18 aged 85. He was born on June 22, 1910.

KONRAD ZUSE pioneered digital computing techniques, and had the distinction of producing the world's first general purpose, programme-controlled calculator, the Z3, in 1941. What was so remarkable about this was that he did it almost alone and from scratch. At a time when digital techniques in computing were not established, Zuse reinvented a form of Boolean algebra as part of his work. Funded by friends and family, he built a prototype in his parents' living room in the late 1930s.

If there was a limitation to Zuse's achievement, it was that he did not fully embrace the speed advantages which were promised by electronics. He had a visual imagination (he was a painter and had studied architecture), and thus he preferred to work along the electro-mechanical route after others had abandoned it for pure electronics.

He did his most exciting work in Nazi Germany and was partly funded by the Hitler regime but as a scientist he claimed to be detached from politics. Computer historians never held his past against him and regarded him as one of the tribe. Nazism may even, indeed, have hampered his researches. The war had been a major stimulus to computer technology in other parts of the world, and while American and British scientists were receiving proper funding for their own computers — ENIAC and Colossos respectively — Zuse was not given the sort of money he required to develop an electronic version of his calculator. The German authorities, having been told it would take two years to build, were so convinced that they would have won the war by then that they decided such expenditure was merely a waste of money.

Konrad Zuse was born in Berlin, and educated there at the Institute of Technology, where he read civil engineering. He had a chequered early career before coming to engineering, but he always preferred working with mechanical and electro-mechanical constructions rather than electronics, which he left to others who were better qualified.

In 1935 he joined the Henschel Aircraft Company, but the following year he began to build a calculating machine. He worked in his parents' home with his friend, an electronics expert, Helmut Schreyer. A number of prototype calculators followed over the next ten years, Z1 in 1938 (originally these were named V1, V2 etc, but were renamed when the German rockets of those names were developed). Z1 had a storage capacity of 16 words and operated, like its successors, with punch cards. It also worked on a binary system, this being during a period when most of the rest of the developing computing industry was working in the time-honoured decimal system.

It was the Z3, however, completed in 1941 and funded by the Nazi Government's Aviation Research Institute, which could really claim to be a revolutionary computer. It was composed of a tape reader, an operator's console and two cabinets with 2,600 relays. It had a small memory, capable of storing 64 22-bit numbers, but was fast enough to multiply two rows of digits in three to five seconds.

The machine was destroyed by Allied bombing, but its successor, Z4, survived the war. This was an even more powerful binary digital computer which the authorities were keen to keep out of harm's way. When bombing intensified, Z4 was removed from Berlin, and arrived, after an eventful drive, in a battered state, at its resting place in a small village in Bavaria.

Zuse also worked on a chess-playing system. As far back as 1938, he was predicting to friends that the world chess champion would be beaten by a computer in another half-century. In 1949 Zuse turned his hand to business, building and marketing his own designs from his company in Hesse. He was not, however, a natural businessman. His company was taken over in 1956 by Siemens, and Zuse subsequently turned his attention to research.

He is survived by his wife, Gisela, and four children. Another son predeceased him.

JOHN BUSHELL

John Bushell, CMG, former British Ambassador to Vietnam and to Pakistan, died on December 14 aged 76. He was born on September 27, 1919.

JOHN BUSHELL was part of the support team behind the Wooden Horse Escape in the Second World War. He was among those who tirelessly vaulted day after day over the improvised "horse" while three of their colleagues beneath the apparatus grimly tunnelled their way out of Stalag Luft III.

Bushell himself, however, was under orders to stay put. A German speaker, he was recruited by intelligence to gather what information he could both from the prison guards and from freshly captured Allied prisoners, then to transmit it through coded letters home to his family.

A bomber pilot, he had been shot down in 1940 while on his first mission over Nazi Germany. He had not even been at the controls, but had been sitting beside a more senior colleague as they ran into heavy groundfire above Mannheim. The hapless young pilot officer was to spend the rest of the Second World War in prison camps, studying to help to pass the time, before eventually being repatriated by the Russians. He was held for several weeks by the Red Army and had to endure a gruelling forced march before eventually reaching Allied lines.

John Christopher Wyndowe Bushell was born at Harrow-on-the-Hill. He was the son of a colonel in the Royal Engineers who spent much of his career in British India. It was from there that the young Bush returned to boarding school in Britain between the wars.

He won an exhibition to Winchester, then another to Clare College, Cambridge, to read history. There he joined the University Air Squadron, with the result that he was called up by the RAF as soon as the war broke out — with only his freshman's year at university behind him.

On eventually being demobilised, Bushell rejected the chance of returning to finish his degree. Instead he was accepted by the Diplomatic Service through what was known as the "country house" method — a series of tests and interviews spread over several days to establish whether one was made of the right stuff.

He was posted first to Moscow at the start of the Cold War, then went to Rome and in 1953-54, by now a first secretary, was sent to the Nato Defence College based in Paris. That seemed to determine the shape of his future career which henceforth had a military slant to it.

He was serving in Baghdad in the late 1950s as deputy secretary-general of the Central Treaty Organisation (formerly known as the Baghdad Pact), when the pro-Western Iraqi Government was overthrown and the young King Faisal was murdered. But Bushell was fortunately on leave in this country at the time.

He was less fortunate, however, after his transfer to Turkey in the same post. While driving home in Ankara after a picnic, Bushell was severely injured in a road accident and had to be evacuated to the British Military Hospital in Cyprus. He only just survived and suffered from a stiff arm and leg for the rest of his life.

He was in Aden as political adviser to the British Commander-in-Chief Middle East, 1961-64, then joined the UK delegation to Nato in Brussels, 1964-68, before being seconded to the Cabinet Office between 1968 and 1970. Returning to Germany in happier circumstances in 1970, he spent four years as Minister and Deputy Commandant in the British Military Government in Berlin.

The first of his two appointments as Ambassador was to Saigon from where he was flown out in the last helicopter to leave as the Thieu-Ky regime in South Vietnam finally collapsed before the advancing Communist forces of General Giap. His final tour as British Ambassador to Pakistan, 1975-79, was almost as dramatic, coinciding as it did with the overthrow in 1977 and subsequent execution of the Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the assumption of power by the military under General Zia.

Apart from a little part-time work for the Foreign Office, Bushell retired completely on his return to this country. He travelled a great deal, especially to sites of archaeological interest around the Mediterranean where he indulged his love of classical scholarship. He played a lot of bridge and a little tennis — although the injuries suffered in his road accident inhibited his early love of outdoor sports.

Essentially a shy man with old-fashioned values, John Bushell was nonetheless a friendly diplomat with a dry wit, and got on particularly well with visiting journalists. He was at his most contented, however, among his own family. He is survived by his wife Theodora and their son, together with a stepson and stepdaughter.

AHMED KARADAWI

Ahmed Karadawi, refugee worker, died of lung cancer in Khartoum on November 20 aged 50. He was born in Kordafan on October 19, 1945.

SUDAN, one of Africa's largest and most impoverished countries, has, since its independence in 1956, been lacerated by internecine conflict between the Muslim north and the Christian and Animist south. The urban populations of northern Sudan, where Ahmed Abdel-Wadoud Karadawi was brought up, were swollen by displaced peoples fleeing the bloodshed and famine of southern regions.

To make matters worse, the shanty towns and encampments around Khartoum were filled to overflowing by migrants seeking to escape the persecutions of governments in neighbouring countries such as Uganda and Eritrea. Karadawi dedicated his life to the plight of these refugees, examining the structures of humanitarian assistance provided for them. He was responsible for improving the conditions of displaced peoples not only in Sudan but throughout Africa.

Graduating from Khartoum University — he later studied for a master's degree and a doctorate at the universities of Reading and Oxford — Karadawi joined the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Khartoum in 1970. He was principally concerned with the problems of the people of Eritrea, the former Italian colony which had been involved in a civil war for nearly 30 years before its independence was finally declared in 1993. Refugees from its arid plateaux and stony ravines, scoured by the MiG bombers of the Soviet-backed Ethiopian Government, fled in their thousands across the border into Sudan.

The two decades in which Karadawi served on the UNHCR were to prove crucial ones in the development of African refugee policy. He set up meetings between international aid agencies and their beneficiaries. Previously the needs of refugees had not been taken fully into account — aid supplied in the form of maize oil or flour, for example, was of little use to people without cooking facilities. Karadawi insisted that refugees should be consulted as to their requirements.

He argued forcefully that they should not be considered merely passive recipients of aid. UN policy had tended to concentrate displaced peoples in encampments and areas where aid could be easily delivered, but Karadawi contested that this exacerbated tensions between refugees and host nations and created seedbeds of political ferment.

He explored ways in which refugees could be integrated within host societies so that they could contribute to local economies. His vision included such far-reaching ideas as the introduction of educational policies to teach Arabic to Eritreans and Tigrinia to their Sudanese hosts.

Karadawi was influential in the passing of the crucial 1974 Sudanese Refugee Act — one of the most liberal in Africa, if not in the world. The Act declared that unaccompanied children, and asylum-seekers who had to wait more than three months for judgment to be passed on their cases, should automatically be granted refugee status. He protested strongly when in the early 1980s Europe and North America began introducing restrictionist asylum policies, predicting that their example would be followed by African governments. He was later proved right. Rwandan refugees are trapped on the Kenya-Tanzania border, and Tanzania has justified its actions by citing the US Government's treatment of Haitians.

Karadawi worked on an individual level, too, seeking the support of Amnesty International in order to secure the release of unjustly detained people. He never compromised his beliefs in the interests of personal security. When thousands were dying of starvation because General Nimeiry had refused to disclose the 1985 famine, Karadawi was asked by a BBC journalist whose fault it was. His answer was inimitable: "Who else? The Government's."

In 1982 Karadawi co-founded and developed the Refugee Studies programme at Oxford — a multidisciplinary centre which aimed to deepen the understanding and analysis of causes of forced migration and solutions to this problem. He spent much of the Eighties there and it was his dream that centres such as this would develop all over the world.

Ahmed Karadawi is survived by his wife Selma, and their son and daughter.

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The young people to whom we give practical help have the will to live and many of them do! By remembering the Fund in your Will you will enable us to expand our work. For further information please contact us on 0171 937 4405 or write to 14 Abingdon Road London W8 6AF.
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Donations please to our solicitors:- Bryan Cave, 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BU

Court and Social Page

Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply:-

Notices to appear on Friday, December 22nd; Saturday, December 23rd; Tuesday, December 26th; Wednesday, December 27th should be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday, December 20th.

ALL NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Tel: 0171 782 7347
Fax: 0171 481 9313

LEGAL NOTICES

NO. 007098 OF 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 13 December 1995, confirming the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £2,186,142 to £706,273 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company, as altered, the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act, were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 18 December 1995.
Dated this 18th day of December 1995.
Edwards Geldard, Solicitors
Dumfries House, Dumfries Place, Cardiff CF1 4YF
Solicitors for the above named Company

Notice of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers
TUDOR TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED
We, David Nisbet and Alan Redvers Price of Casson Beckman & Partners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of Tudor Transport Services Limited, registered number: 2674863 by Stratton Finance Limited on 1st December 1995.
D. Nisbet
Joint Administrative Receiver

SILVARA PRINT LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at London Chamber of Commerce, 3 Queen Street, London, EC4R 1AB on 4 January 1996 at 11:00am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 et seq of the said Act.
Peter A Lawrance, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Moore Stephens Booth White, 2 Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated 7th December 1995
By Order of the Board
Nicholas Tyler, Director.

VEDILUX LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986
Notice is hereby given that We, P.R Sykes and M Fishman were appointed joint liquidators of the above named Company by the members on the 8th December 1995.
Notice is also hereby given that the Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 8th February 1996, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned of Arthur Andersen, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT, the Joint Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing by the said Joint Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 18th December 1995
P R SYKES, Joint Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES GROUP LIMITED
We, David Nisbet and Alan Redvers Price of Casson Beckman & Partners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of Distribution Services Group Limited, registered number: 2674057 by Stratton Finance Limited on 1st December 1995.
D. Nisbet
Joint Administrative Receiver

Notice of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers
AXIS TRANSPORT LOGISTICS LIMITED
We, David Nisbet and Alan Redvers Price of Casson Beckman & Partners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of Axis Transport Logistics Limited, registered number: 2878762 by Stratton Finance Limited on 1st December 1995.
D. Nisbet
Joint Administrative Receiver

Notice of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers
L.A. FRANKLIN & SON LIMITED
We, David Nisbet and Alan Redvers Price of Casson Beckman & Partners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of L A Franklin & Son Limited, registered number: 2747037 by Stratton Finance Limited on 1st December 1995.
D. Nisbet
Joint Administrative Receiver

Notice of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers
LEVELFAST LIMITED
We, David Nisbet and Alan Redvers Price of Casson Beckman & Partners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of Levelfast Limited, registered number: 2647748 by Stratton Finance Limited on 1st December 1995.
D. Nisbet
Joint Administrative Receiver

COMPANY NOTICES

MAXIM'S LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 84th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place at 12 noon on Friday 19 January 1996 at Espace Pierre Cardin, 1 Avenue Gabriel, Paris 8 (e), France. All proxies received at the Company's Head Office at 3 Rue Royal, Paris 8 (e), France or the Registered Office at Barry House, 20 - 22 Worple Road, London SW19 4DH, not later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting will be accepted.
DATE: 20th December, 1995
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
J.Y.R. Strover FCA
Secretary
Barry House
20 - 22 Worple Road
Wimbledon
London SW19 4DH
14 December 1995

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONS with information regarding the whereabouts of Sonia Stanley born in 1940, daughter of Mary Beatrice Stanley (nee Robinson) and Sidney Ernest Stanley last know to be residing at Nuttshall Road, Morden, Surrey. Kindly contact: Pragvanears & Co. 113-115 London Road Mitcham Surrey CR4 2JA. Tel 0181 646 4885 EXT 138 Reference AC

STEIN RICHARDS Chartered Accountants. We are pleased to announce that as from 1st January 1996 Mr Robert Nissen will be joining the Practice as a Partner. 10 London Mews London W2 1HY. Tel: 0171 402 2176 Fax: 0171 724 4829.

ON THIS DAY

December 20, 1848

The laboured prose of the first article is in sharp contrast to the brisk action of the second.

THE KOH-I-NOOR.—This famous diamond (the largest and most precious in the world), forfeited by the treachery of the Sovereign at Lahore, and now under the security of British bayonets at the fortress of Govindghur, it is hoped will ere long, as one of the splendid trophies of our military valour, be brought to England in attestation of the glory of our arms in India. The mischievous superstition attaching to the possession of this unique and invaluable diamond might be utterly crushed by this retributive consignment; and our august Queen, herself the brightest example of female sovereignty in the annals of England, would be appropriately adorned with a jewel of analogous value to that of the loyal estimation so universally assigned to her in the hearts of her subjects.—*Delhi Gazette.*

CHASE OF A SLAVER.—Extract of a letter from Her Majesty's ship Amphitrite, lat. 6 deg. N. long 4 deg. E., Sept. 18, 1848—"We have to-day taken our fifth prize for this year, and I cannot allow her to leave for St. Helena without assuring you again that I am well. Our recent capture is a most beautiful brig of about 130 tons, with a slave cargo on board of musquito cloths, tobacco, wine, rum, &c. She was first seen from our royal yard at 8 a.m. yesterday dead to leeward: she kept before the wind and set all studding-sails. We made all sail in chase, and for some time, as the breeze was fresh, we had the advantage of her, nearing her sufficiently to make her visible from the deck, but the wind dying away at sunset she was only to be seen from the mast-head. As from her movements it was clear she was a slaver, it became a question what her motions would be during the night, and after some deliberation we hauled up to S.S.E. so as to be able to weather Cape Formosa; and our calculation proved correct. At daylight, the weather clearing up we got sight of her right a-head, distance not more than two miles; we fired several shots, but the distance was too great for precision; however, the shots bothered her and made her keep more away, which enabled us to get to windward of her; and now began a most beautiful and exciting chase, the result seeming very doubtful during the whole of it, and boats, spars, and casks which had been thrown overboard floated past us; she also cut away her anchors from the bows to lighten her. In the squalls, which were frequent, we neared her rapidly, and again, as the wind fell, she left us, and at 10 a.m. was almost hull down ahead, but from that time the wind increased to almost a gale, and at 2 p.m., in the midst of a heavy squall or tornado we ran alongside of her, having fairly out-carried her and nearly run her ashore at the mouth of the river Benin, after a most exciting chase of 31 hours. She is the most beautiful and perfectly fitted vessel you can conceive, named the Josefa, under the Brazilian flag, and we are all astonished how we caught her, as in moderate weather, on a wind, she can run round us; but, fortunately the chase was all before the wind, our best point of sailing, and the greater part of it in a succession of heavy gales. We are much in want of a change for a month or so to a more temperate climate to recruit our health, as the debilitating air of the Bights is telling upon us all."—*Devonport Independent.*

NEWS

Tory fishing rebels help defeat

■ The Government suffered an embarrassing blow last night as Tory MPs combined with Labour to defeat it over the European fisheries policy.

In spite of a frantic whipping exercise John Major's fragile parliamentary position was vividly exposed as MPs representing fishing communities, Euro-sceptics and most of the Opposition party MPs lined up against him. The Government lost by two as more than a dozen Tories rebelled..... **Pages 1, 8**

Tories try to save MP from bankruptcy

■ Senior Conservatives rallied round to save David Ashby from financial ruin as he faced a £500,000 bill for a failed libel action in which he was branded a lying, hypocritical homosexual. A rescue fund could prove vital, since any MP made bankrupt has to stand down.................................**Page 1**

Lottery rebuke

Peter Davis is to keep his job as regulator of the National Lottery but was rebuked by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, for accepting free flights from a company linked to Camelot .... **Page 1**

Holloway warning

Ministers were warned months ago by Holloway's Board of Visitors of mounting alarm at the deterioration in conditions for the hundreds of women inmates at the jail................................**Page 1**

New line

British Rail's 48-year monopoly on train services came to an end when three passenger franchises were sold ....**Page 2**

Lucifer convicted

A reign of fear ended for a robber who called himself Lucifer. Keith Bramble, 36, was said to have enjoyed terrorising his victims as he raided their homes ...... **Page 3**

Libel embarrassment

Charles Lewington, the media chief at Conservative Central Office, suffered the embarrassment of being involved in a £40,000 libel award to an MP....... **Page 5**

In the picture

Commander John Grieve, a watercolourist with a taste for Chinese philosophy and American Civil War history was named as Britain's new national anti-terrorist co-ordinator .... **Page 6**

Classic car fraud

Lord Brocket, a polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, is facing a prison sentence after admitting his part in a £4.5 million insurance fraud involving his collection of classic cars.........**Page 7**

Cricket dream

Malcolm Rifkind inspired dreams of England's cricketers beating the West Indies in a Test series ....**Page 8**

Nato in command

Nato takes command of peace operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina today, beginning a unique mission in the alliance's history which includes the objective of withdrawing in a year.... **Page 10**

Assassination film

The first public screening of the only film of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination shocked Israelis with its dramatic exposure of appalling security lapses.......... **Page 11**

Schools under fire

Hospitals, schools and mosques are being targeted in a shelling campaign against the residential areas of Kabul by an Islamic movement seeking to overthrow President Rabbani .... **Page 12**

Target Clinton

Senate Whitewater investigators are homing in on Hillary Clinton after publishing subpoenaed documents that appeared to contradict her sworn evidence given to federal regulators .... **Page 13**

Two plus two makes old

■ Young shoppers who find themselves short-changed in the pre-Christmas rush were given a ready scapegoat yesterday: the use of calculators in primary school classrooms. A study has found that undergraduates cannot match their parents' or grandparents' generations on simple mental arithmetic .... **Page 4**

SIMON WALKER

Chris Southern unloads the catch of the *Mattanja* at Padstow, Cornwall, as the fishing debate raged in Parliament. Pages 1, 8

Banking: NatWest is to sell NatWest Bancorp, its US retail banking subsidiary, to Fleet Financial, the tenth biggest bank in the US, in a $3.56 billion deal............ **Page 21**

Wise persons: Kenneth Clarke appointed the first women to his panel of independent economic forecasters, ushering in the era of "wise persons" .... **Page 21**

Economy: Countries hoping to join a common currency must be ambitious in planning to cut deficits and must tackle structural rigidities in their labour markets, says the OECD think tank .... **Page 22**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 19.2 to 3576.9. Sterling's index rose from 82.5 to 82.9 after a rise from $1.5385 to $1.5435 and from DM2.2031 to DM2.2160 .... **Page 24**

SPORT

Cricket: Angus Fraser's omission by England from the three-day match starting in Pietermaritzburg today must raise considerable doubts about his future at Test level.................................. **Page 40**

Bowls: Women bowlers in Scotland struck a blow for traditional values by revoking a rule allowing them to go hatless in the national championships.................. **Page 40**

Athletics: David Powell salutes a milestone in the long-running history of one of the sport's most authoritative magazines .... **Page 37**

Football: The Premier League appears to be set on a confrontation with European lawmakers over the edict scrapping restrictions on foreign players in domestic competitions .... **Page 40**

Osborne's last word: To be premiered on television on Christmas Day, John Osborne's epic last play, *England, My England*, is a characteristically virulent attack on modern England, cloaked in a portrait of the Restoration composer Henry Purcell..................................**Page 32**

Seeing red: At Wembley Arena, Simply Red displayed the wide-ranging appeal that has kept them top of the pop world ....**Page 33**

On stage: Peter Nichols's saucy *Privates on Parade* has been revived at Greenwich with Tony Slattery; while Norwich's fine new Playhouse opened with Stoppard's *Jumpers* ....**Page 34**

Juggling prodigies: More and more children want to learn the skills of the circus ring ......**Page 33**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ THE FILMS
Jim Carrey is back. Geoff Brown reviews Ace Ventura — When Nature Calls

■ THE BOOKS
Researching a biography of Arthur Conan Doyle is anything but elementary

Party time: "The great thing about Christmas is that you can get away with anything." Jason Cowley on women behaving badly ..... **Page 15**

Naming names: You arrive and are shown to a room of strangers. And left. When were you last introduced to someone? .... **Page 15**

Sheer fun: Iain R. Webb on the endless variations on the see-through theme — from the exotic and explicit to the discreet and charming ....**Page 14**

Cutting prices: Housing market analysts were wide of the mark with their predictions about house prices for 1995. So whom should we believe for next year?....... **Page 30**

Less than five years ago as Communist Party leaders fled their Moscow offices, frantically destroying files as they went, the very survival of the party seemed in doubt. Sadly, Sunday's parliamentary election erased that doubt

— *New York Times*

These Communists may not be the Bolsheviks of old but they are authoritarians. If the people feel serious enough to give them control, there's no certainty that they'll ever give control back — *USA Today*

Preview: Three single men try to be lonely hearts no longer. *Man Seeks Woman* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Lynne Truss wonders if *EastEnders* is going mad ....**Page 39**

Bottomley and Davis

The head of Oflot should display the iron judgment that working in such an area demands. In both his actions and responses Mr Davis failed in this regard and should have been replaced .... **Page 17**

Kabul crucible

Today the Red Cross launches its Christmas appeal for the victims of Afghanistan's forgotten war: it is a call to which the world should respond generously .... **Page 17**

Glorious mud

May the cricketers enjoy uninterrupted play over Christmas. But may there also be enough Kruger mist to keep the spinners and the hippos happy .... **Page 17**

JOHN REDWOOD

Should Europe decide on a continental system of protection, there would be dangers for world trade and employment .... **Page 16**

TIM CONGDON

Largely as a result of the Tories' struggle to curb the public sector, the ratio of government expenditure to national output is almost 10 per cent lower in Britain than in Germany and almost 15 per cent lower than in France .... **Page 16**

ALAN COREN

Mrs Coren came through the front door, lugging shopping bags. "Why has the fairy got only one leg?" she inquired............... **Page 16**

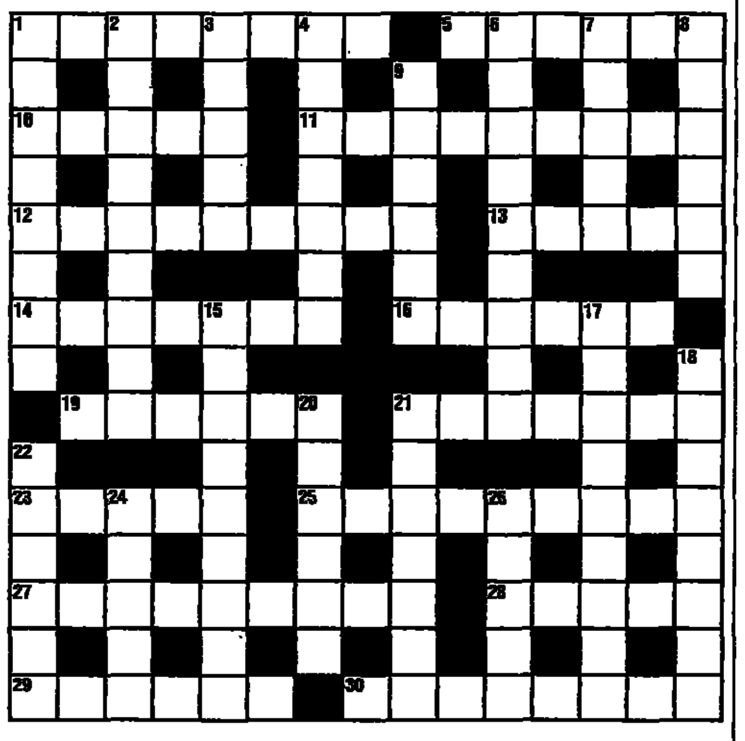
PETER RIDDELL

John Major has been bold, notably in forcing the leadership issue six months ago. My money is still on 1997, and May 1, but Mr Major will still have plenty of earlier dates pencilled into his diary....... **Page 8**

Mary Lascelles, literary critic, teacher and poet; ***Konrad Zuse***, computer pioneer; **John Bushell**, former Ambassador to Vietnam and to Pakistan; **Ahmed Karadawi**, refugee worker .... **Page 19**

Brixton riots; threat to the BBC World Service; fashions in funerals; drink guidelines .... **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,043



ACROSS

1 Smelling-salts considered harmful to smokers (4,4).
5 Ball dispersed moths around flat (6).
10 Marks produced during delivery from China, evidently (5).
11 Cast off here? (5-4).
12 Heavenly time for some people (9).
13 Sweet nonsense (5).
14 Criterion, possibly, as the rate gets adjusted (7).
16 Injury from long row on the way back (6).
19 North American reform is OK with me (6).
21 Dürer's work reduced to ash, say? (7).
23 Quarter horse in poor shape in rude hut (5).
25 High winds in Blackburn (3,6).
27 Try getting facial hair cut? It's agony! (9).
28 Stuff cut to make mask for film production (5).
29 Cheap Scotch fish (3-3).
30 Adventure, these days, in flight (8).

DOWN

1 Women's ultimate therapy, possibly? (3-5).
2 Celebrity in sergeants' mess (9).
3 One who breaks his neck, right inside bank (5).
4 Jazz, fun for students before term (7).
6 Promises of party in show-ring? (9).
7 Like Fabergé piece, a ring with no diamonds, say (5).
8 Tap and plug away (6).
9 Happened to live on mountain in Cumbria (6).
15 Tinker worked in attempt to produce gewgaws (9).
17 Band-box in odd Scottish wrapping (9).
18 Running out of stock, all at once (8).
20 End in view? Protest! (6).
21 Wilts — high ridge in the shire? (7).
22 There's novel here or an old book (6).
24 A place to recover after theatre presentation (5).
26 Reportedly one who packs port (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,042

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K				A		V		B		B				M
S	M	A	L	L	B	E	E	R		S	A	Y	S	O
		L				L		A		E		A		L
L	O	A	D	S	T	A	R		C	R	E	W	E	L
O		B		C		T		P		V		N		I
P	E	A	C	E	P	I	P	E		A	S	I	D	E
E		M		N		O		R		N		N		N
S	P	A	R	T	A	N		U	P	T	I	G	H	T

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

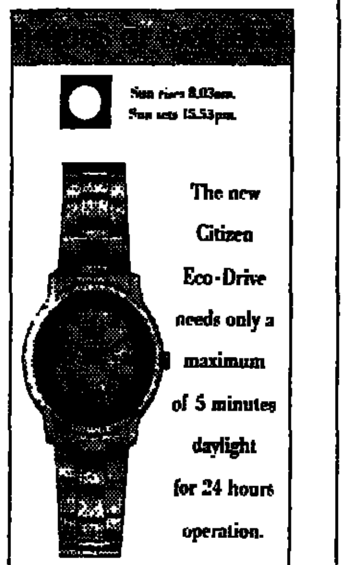
For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Plymouth, 1.30in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Hebrides, 4.8hr


Sun rises 8.03am.
Sun sets 15.53pm.

The new Citizen Eco-Drive needs only a maximum of 5 minutes daylight for 24 hours operation.

CITIZEN TIME WELL SPENT

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start cloudy with outbreaks of rain and sleet over the southern half turning to snow over hills. This will gradually edge southwards during the day but the rain will linger in the southwest. More northern areas should brighten up through the day, although North Sea coasts may see some wintry showers.

South and west Scotland together with Northern Ireland should be mostly dry and bright. North and east Scotland will see some brightness but also snow showers, heavy at times.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England, E Anglia, Midlands:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain or sleet, and snow over hills, this clearing southwards during the day. Wind northeast moderate. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **NE, E England:** cloudy start but becoming brighter during the day. Risk of wintry showers along coasts. Wind north to northeast moderate. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Channel Is, SW England, S Wales:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Wind northeast gentle, becoming moderate or fresh. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Wales, NW, Cent N England, Lakes, IoM:** cloudy start but brightening up and staying mostly dry. Wind northeast moderate or fresh. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright spells but also snow showers, heavy at times. Wind northwest becoming northeast moderate or fresh. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** mostly dry and bright. Wind northeast becoming east fresh strong. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Friday:** bright in the north with snow showers in the east. There will be rain and sleet further south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

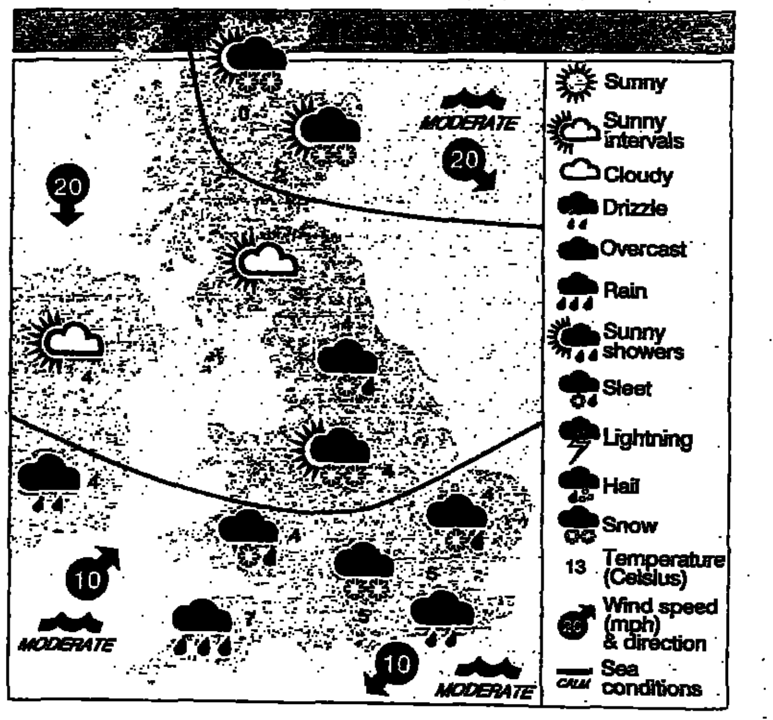
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.1	0.02	2	36	sn	Littlehmptn	X				
Anglesey	X					Liverpool	X				
Aspatria	-	-	4	39	du	London	-	0.03	8	46	r
Aviemore	-	0.17	1	34	sn	Lowestoft	-	0.02	6	43	d
Belfast	-	0.02	5	41	r	Manchester	-	-	5	41	c
Birmingham	-	0.11	5	41	r	Margate	-	0.02	6	43	d
Bognor R	-	0.08	7	45	r	Minehead	-	0.53	5	41	r
Bournem'th	-	0.22	8	46	r	Morecambe	-	-	6	43	du
Bristol	-	0.28	5	41	r	Newcastle	X				
Buxton	-	0.01	3	37	c	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	-	0.34	5	41	r	Norwich	-	0.02	6	43	du
Clacton	-	0.06	5	41	c	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	-	0.13	4	39	r
Colwyn Bay	X					Penzance	-	1.15	13	55	d
Cromer	-	-	6	43	c	Plymouth	X	1.30	X	X	X
Doncaster	X					Poole	-	0.17	9	48	d
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.01	6	43	r
Eastbourne	-	0.06	6	43	r	Ross-o-wye	-	0.14	5	41	r
Edinburgh	-	-	4	39	sh	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.06	2	36	d	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	X					Sandown	-	0.11	8	46	r
Falmouth	0.2	0.59	12	54	fg	Sauntn Snd	-	0.26	7	45	c
Fishguard	-	0.23	5	41	r	Scarboro'	-	0.26	5	41	r
Folkestone	-	0.01	6	43	r	Shanklin	-	0.20	8	46	r
Glasgow	X					Shrewsbury	-	0.06	5	41	r
Guernsey	-	0.81	10	50	r	Skegness	-	-	5	41	b
Hastings	-	0.04	6	43	r	Southend	-	0.02	5	41	c
Hayling I.	-	0.11	7	45	r	Southport	X				
Herne Bay	-	0.02	5	41	r	Southsea	-	0.09	7	45	r
Hove	X					Stornoway	-	0.02	6	43	c
Hunstanton	-	-	5	41	du	Swanage	-	0.22	9	48	r
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	-	0.73	10	50	r
Isle of Man	-	-	7	45	c	Tenby	X				
Jersey	-	0.62	8	46	r	Tiree	4.8	-	5	41	sh
Kinloss	0.3	0.16	3	37	sn	Torquay	-	0.86	11	52	r
Leeds	-	-	5	41	c	Tynemouth	-	0.23	6	43	sh
Lerwick	0.2	0.01	-1	30	sn	Ventnor	-	0.12	8	46	r
Leuchars	-	-	3	37	c	Weymouth	-	0.27	9	48	r

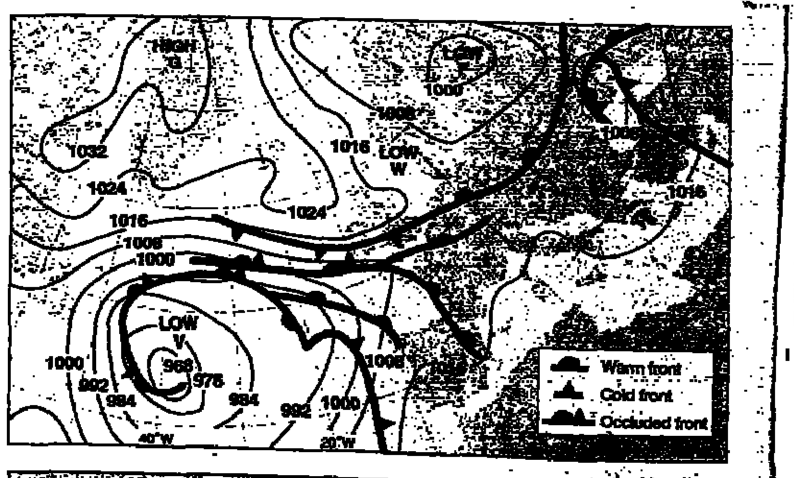
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	13	55	f	Majorca	16	61	s	Rome	12	54	f
Akrotiri	15	59	f	C'phagn	0	32	c	Malaga	15	59	c	S Fr'sco	9	48	c
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	6	43	d	Malta	17	63	f	S Paulo	26	79	d
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	10	50	r	Melb'rne	16	61	c	Salzburg	1	34	c
Amst'dm	2	36	r	Faro	15	59	r	Mexico C	19	66	s	Santiago	30	86	s
Athens	16	61	f	Florence	12	54	c	Miami	26	79	f	Seoul	5	41	s
B Aires	X			Frankfurt	4	39	r	Milan	13	55	f	Sing'por	27	81	t
Bahrain	19	66	c	Funchal	21	70	s	Montreal	-10	14	X	St'kholm	-8	18	s
Bangkok	33	91	s	Geneva	3	37	c	Moscow	-13	9	s	Strasb'rg	5	41	f
Barbados	X			Gibraltar	16	61	c	Munich	3	37	c	Sydney	23	73	f
Barcelona	12	54	f	Helsinki	-12	10	sn	N Delhi	18	64	s	Tangier	17	63	c
Beirut	16	61	s	Hong K	20	68	s	N York	4	39	f	Tel Aviv	15	59	s
Belgrade	0	32	sn	Innsbrck	3	37	c	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	24	75	f
Berlin	1	34	c	Istanbul	8	46	r	Naples	15	59	f	Tokyo	9	48	f
Bermuda	18	64	c	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	13	55	s	Toronto	-4	25	f
Biarritz	16	61	s	Jo'burg	17	63	c	Oslo	-6	21	f	Tunis	14	57	f
Borde'x	11	52	f	L Angels	15	59	s	Paris	4	39	c	Valencia	15	59	s
Brussels	5	41	d	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	6	43	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Budapst	4	39	s	Le Touqt	5	41	f	Perth	23	73	f	Venice	11	52	f
Cairo	19	66	s	Lisbon	16	61	d	Prague	2	36	c	Vienna	4	39	f
Cape Tn	22	72	c	Locarno	7	45	s	Reykjavik	-6	21	sn	Warsaw	-1	30	c
Ch'church	16	61	X	Luxembg	3	37	c	Rhodes	14	57	f	Wash'ton	3	37	r
Chicago	2	36	f	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	30	86	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Cologne	3	37	r	Madrid	7	45	f	Riyadh	13	55	c	Zurich	2	36	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low F will drift southeastwards and fill. Low V will be slow-moving and fill. High G will edge eastwards with little change in pressure



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11:55	6.96	–	–	Leith	0:17	5.30	0:46	5.40
Aberdeen	11:39	4.28	–	–	Liverpool	9:18	9.15	9:43	9.29
Avonmouth	5:09	12.42	5:36	12.84	Lowestoft	7:21	2.51	8:03	2.51
Belfast	9:03	3.31	9:25	3.47	Margate	10:09	4.57	10:41	4.61
Cardiff	5:06	10.97	5:29	11.18	Milford Haven	4:14	6.54	4:38	6.74
Devonport	3:47	5.13	4:11	5.21	Newquay	3:11	6.21	3:35	6.45
Dover	8:54	6.42	9:21	6.47	Oban	4:02	3.73	4:15	3.90
Dublin	9:44	4.01	10:08	4.13	Penzance	2:43	5.17	3:08	5.26
Falmouth	3:03	4.73	3:28	4.83	Portland	4:49	1.98	5:12	1.92
Glasgow	11:19	4.22	11:24	4.37	Portsmouth	9:24	4.73	9:52	4.63
Harwich	9:48	3.84	10:21	3.95	Shoreham	9:17	6.09	9:46	6.05
Holyhead	8:27	5.47	8:49	5.58	Southampton	8:52	4.62	8:18	4.38
Hull	4:12	6.99	4:44	7.11	Swansea	4:17	8.82	4:40	9.05
Ilfracombe	3:58	8.85	4:20	9.04	Tees	1:34	5.08	2:03	5.22
King's Lynn	4:21	6.19	4:47	6.36	W'ton-on-Nze	9:48	4.03	10:19	4.19

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8 03 am
Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon sets 2.51 pm
Moon rises 5.42 am
New Moon December 22

London 3.53 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.13 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.42 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.23 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.18 am

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هكذا من الاصل

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How UK News was left high and dry

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Women bowlers change heart over headwear

WILL HOUSE PRICES RISE NEXT YEAR?
Homes 30

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20 1995

Shares halted in troubled mining company

By Christine Buckley

THE future of Coal Investments, the mining company, hung in the balance yesterday after its shares were suspended as directors spent the day locked in talks with financial advisors.

The company said that it was delaying its interim results and had asked for the suspension "pending clarification of its financial position".

Trading in the shares was halted after planning permission for a coalface for which the company had high production hopes was refused.

The company, formed from the remainder of Britain's mines after British Coal sold the more lucrative collieries, had already made plans to launch a rescue rights issue to shore up its balance sheet with about £20 million.

Coal Investments interim results, which had been scheduled for publication tomorrow, were expected to reveal losses of about £11 million, with the bulk coming from lost production. The company has had its financial position under review since the start of this month.

Speculation was mounting yesterday that the company's bankers could press for the departure of Malcolm Edwards, the founder and executive chairman, as City concern increases.

One mining analyst said that there was a feeling that the company should have kept the Stock Exchange more in touch with events. The City has been looking to the recruitment of outside industrialists to the group and for Mr Edwards to take more of a back seat.

Since the company was founded in 1993 by Mr Edwards, who was formerly commercial director at British Coal, it has raised £50 million from investors. Although it has spent heavily on its six collieries, some industry watchers believe the patience of the company's bankers is wearing thin.

Charles Kernot, mining analyst at Paribas, said: "There would be no shortage of buyers for the mines. The question mark hangs over the commitment of the banks to the company."

Coal Investments intends to appeal against the decision to refuse planning permission, but time may run out for the company before a hearing.

Pennington, page 23

Edwards: firm's founder

Kate Barker caused a temporary fall in sterling when she suggested that a further 3 per cent depreciation in the pound would be useful to exporters

NatWest sells Bancorp in $3.56bn US deal

By Patricia Tehan and Richard Thomson

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is to sell NatWest Bancorp, its American retail banking subsidiary, to Fleet Financial, the tenth biggest bank in the US, in a $3.56 billion deal that has taken months to hammer out.

NatWest will receive just $3.16 billion for the business as it is buying back assets worth $400 million. The price, of which only $2.6 billion is payable immediately, is far lower than the $4 billion to $5 billion NatWest had originally hoped for. Analysts said the price was "disappointing but acceptable". NatWest shares closed 19½p higher last night at 649p.

The cash payment of $2.6 billion could be reduced to $2.1 billion with the rest paid in stock if Fleet opts to finance the deal with the issue of up to $175 million of common stock and up to $300 million of preferred stock to NatWest.

Additional payments of a total of up to $560 million will be payable over the next eight years, dependent on Bancorp's future earnings. Derek Wanless, NatWest chief executive, said he expected the total deferred consideration would be satisfied within four years.

The $400 million assets excluded from the sale include a non-performing loan portfolio of $315 million net of provisions and an $85 million building in Manhattan occupied by NatWest Markets.

Lord Alexander, the chairman, said the bank was reviewing ways in which the proceeds from the sale can be utilised, "including returning capital to shareholders". One way could be a share buyback. In April the bank received shareholder permission to repurchase up to 100 million ordinary shares.

Mr Wanless said other options available to the bank include in-fill acquisitions.

As a result of the structure of the sale with the deferral of some of the payment, and to conform with UK accounting law, NatWest will make an accounting loss of about £600 million on the sale next year. That will be reduced over time as the bank receives proceeds from the earnout.

NatWest was forced to reveal its plans to sell Bancorp in September after news leaked. The decision followed widespread consolidation in the US banking sector. Lord Alexander said yesterday: "With the rapid pace of consolidation in the US banking market, Bancorp could not maintain its competitive position long term without further substantial investment." NatWest did not believe that such investment would yield acceptable returns, he added.

Bancorp has $32 billion in assets and 310 branches in New York and New Jersey. Fleet is the tenth largest bank after its merger with Shawmut National Corporation this month. It has a market capitalisation of $9.73 billion. The acquisition will take it to seventh place. Bancorp will be merged with Fleet's New York-based banking business. The combined operation will trade as Fleet NY.

John Tugwell, chairman and chief executive of Bancorp, will become president and chief executive of Fleet NY. NatWest will appoint two additional directors to the board of the merged bank. Mr Wanless said this was because the bank had "an interest in the way the bank will be managed because of the earnout".

Fleet said the acquisition would be financed primarily through internal funding sources. It expects to issue $600 million of preferred stock and $400 million of debt securities.

Pennington, page 23

Women join panel of the wise men

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday appointed the first women to his panel of independent economic forecasters, ending the soubriquet "wise men" and ushering in the era of "wise persons".

The three appointments place greater emphasis on the regional economies and industry, and include a strong strain of Keynesian economics. Notably, the new panellists believe that the Chancellor's forecast of 3 per cent growth next year is over-optimistic. They join the three men left from the original panel of seven set up by Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, to bolster policy credibility after sterling left the exchange-rate mechanism.

Kate Barker, formerly head of economics at Ford of Europe and now chief economic adviser at the Confederation of British Industry, marked her appointment by causing a temporary fall in sterling when she suggested in an interview that a further 3 per cent depreciation in the pound would be useful for exporters.

The second woman is Bridget Rosewell, joint managing director of Business Strategies, the regional economic consultancy that she set up after leaving her post as deputy director of economics at the CBI. Ms Rosewell described herself as a Keynesian.

The other vacant place on the panel goes to Martin Weale, the new head of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Mr Weale, a reader-elect in economics at Cambridge University, had worked variously at the Bank of England, the Minneapolis Federal Reserve bank and the National Statistical Office of Malawi.

The three new members join Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs, Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research, and Patrick Minford of Liverpool University on the panel.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3576.9	(-19.2)
Yield	3.99%	
FT-SE A All share	1753.78	(-8.04)
Nikkei	19140.49	(-170.59)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5077.74	(+2.53)*
S&P Composite	606.84	(-0.03)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 11/16%*	(5¾%)
Long Bond	109¼*	(109 3/16)
Yield	6.19%*	(6.19%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6½%	(6½%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	110 5/16	(110¾)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5426*	(1.5420)
London:		
$	1.5425	(1.5399)
DM	2.2176	(2.2028)
FFr	7.6285	(7.5910)
SFr	1.7793	(1.7673)
Yen	157.09	(156.56)
£ Index	82.9	(82.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4364*	(1.4292)
FFr	4.9508*	(4.9224)
SFr	1.1529*	(1.1455)
Yen	101.84*	(101.53)
$ Index	94.0	(93.9)

Tokyo close Yen 101.56

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$17.40	($17.50)

GOLD

London close	$388.00	($387.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Profit warnings

Coats Viyella and Courtaulds Textiles, two of Britain's largest clothing manufacturers, yesterday revealed the extent of the damage wreaked by the unusually mild autumn weather by issuing surprise profit warnings to their shareholders.
Page 23, Tempus 24

OECD warning

European countries hoping to join a common currency must be ambitious in planning to cut budget deficits and must tackle structural rigidities in their labour markets before they lose their independence over interest rate policy, the OECD said yesterday.
Page 22

White Hart hotel backer pulls out

By Eric Reguly

THE sale of White Hart, the mid-market hotels chain owned by Forte, all but collapsed yesterday after Apax Partners, a venture capital group in London, decided to withdraw the financing it had lined up for the proposed purchaser.

Apax, which is funded largely by American institutions, had been negotiating with Oriel Leisure, a small hotels management company, to buy 60 of the 72 White Hart hotels for about £120 million. Apax's contribution towards the purchase price was to be about £40 million.

Apax had concerns about the value of the hotels, whose annual profits are about £12 million, and tried to negotiate a discount of 20 per cent or so last week. The lower offer was rejected by Forte. A Forte spokesman said: "We intend to sell these businesses at a proper price, but we're in no hurry."

John Moulton, Apax's director, would not comment about the valuation discrepancy. He said: "We would have been happy to complete the transaction."

Forte, which is under takeover threat from Granada, considers White Hart a non-core asset and had hoped to sell the chain quickly.

Granada was pleased that the sale has hit a snag because it would keep White Hart if its takeover succeeds.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, said: "We believe it's better to keep and develop a business like White Hart. It can only benefit shareholders in the long term."

Forte said that it continues to talk to Oriel's managers, but said they were no longer considered the lead candidates to purchase White Hart. Forte is talking to other potential purchasers. It would not identify them and said no sale should expected before the end of the year.

Fed rate cut by quarter of a point

AMERICA'S Federal Reserve last night cut the Fed funds rate by 0.25 per cent of a percentage point in what officials described as a cautious move, designed to give the economy a helping hand in the New Year.

The cut to 5.5 per cent in the rate that commercial banks charge each other for overnight loans is the second this year.

Officials at the Federal Open Markets Committee meeting last night, however, left unchanged the discount rate, the amount that the Fed charges banks for money.

The cut followed a less turbulent day on world markets. Just after the rate cut was announced the Dow Jones industrial average was down 20 points. In London, the FT-SE 100 index closed down 19.2 points at 3,576.9.

The Fed decision came ahead of a crucial meeting on America's budget impasse which began at 8pm London time.

BTR sells Dunlop for £300 million

By Alasdair Murray

DUNLOP SLAZENGER, the sports good manufacturer, changed hands for £300 million yesterday as the company's owner, BTR, the industrial conglomerate, continued its disposal strategy.

Dunlop has been bought by CINVen, the venture capital company, which until a management buyout in October was part of British Coal. CINVen also bought Compass's healthcare division for £180 million earlier this month.

The Dunlop sale follows the disposal last month of Tilcon, the aggregrates business, for £330 million and had been expected for some time. BTR's share price closed unchanged at 316p.

BTR has been using the money from disposals to fund the £2 billion purchase of the minority stake in Nylex, its Australian subsidiary. The City is anticipating further sales, with the most likely considered to be BTR's Taiwanese chemicals division.

Dunlop is best known for its golf and tennis products and employs 3,000 people worldwide. Its brands include Slazenger, Maxfli and Carlton. Last year, Dunlop had a turnover of £275 million.

The company was founded in Belfast in 1889 by John Boyd Dunlop, inventor of the pneumatic tyre, while Slazenger started out as a modest family sports business established by Czech immigrants in Manchester in the 1920s.

The two companies merged in the 1960s and were taken over by BTR after a tough £100 million bid battle in 1985.

Dunlop had already disposed of its core tyre-making operations to Sumitomo of Japan in the early 1980s but BTR continued the process of disposing of Dunlop's motor interests, selling off the famous Fort Dunlop site, Birmingham, in 1989 and a majority stake in the automotive components division to Siemens, of Germany, in 1991.

Pledge to scrap nuclear power subsidy overturned

By Christine Buckley

FRESH controversy hit the soon-to-be privatised nuclear industry after the electricity regulator reinforced a levy on prices designed to subsidise nuclear power in an announcement that flew in the face of a pledge made by Michael Heseltine to abandon the charge and cut customer bills by £20 a year.

The Labour Party called for an immediate inquiry into why the levy, which is likely to cost customers up to £500 million, is to continue. Nigel Griffiths, the party's spokesman on consumer affairs, declared the promise made by Mr Heseltine in May, when the Deputy Prime Minister revealed plans for the privatisation of the nuclear plants, "an extravagance the Government clearly can't afford to pay for".

The statement by Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, that the fossil fuel levy, paid on electricity bills to support nuclear power, would remain at 10 per cent also provoked a storm in the industry. The Chemical Industries Association said it was deeply disappointed that the nuclear element of the fossil fuel levy — which makes up the bulk of the charge — was to remain after the Government had indicated that it would be abolished on privatisation.

Professor Littlechild said that a reduced rate would apply after the sell-off, which is expected in the spring or summer of next year, in a statement that contradicts Mr Heseltine's pledge of abolition.

The regulator said that the levy would fall to a rate to fund continuing obligations for renewable fuels and to recover outstanding arrears between Nuclear Electric and the Non-Fossil Purchasing Agency.

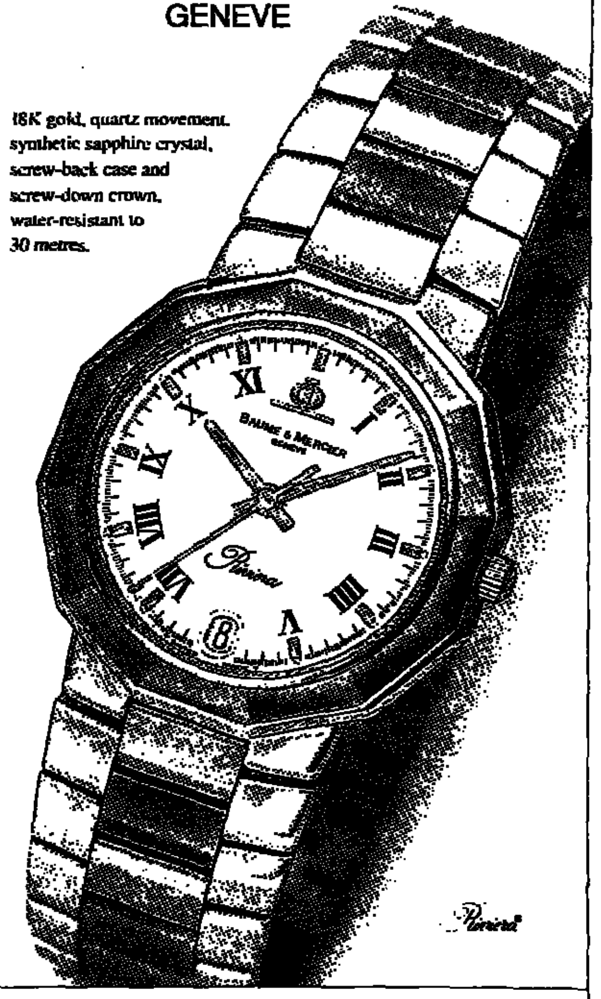
In his statement to the Commons in May, Mr Heseltine said that electricity bills should fall by about 8 per cent by autumn 1996. Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, yesterday said that the fall was now more likely to be 6 per cent. But he insisted that customers would not lose out and said that the returns to customers from the National Grid flotation over the £50 set by Professor Littlechild would take the average reduction in bills to more than the £20 pledged by Mr Heseltine.

Money raised from the fossil fuel levy will go to meet decommissioning costs on Magnox reactors which are staying in the public sector. Those costs have been put at £8.5 billion, while the Government revealed in May that it had raised £5.9 billion to fund it.

BNFL plant, page 22
National Power buyback, page 23

Littlechild: provoked storm

BAUME & MERCIER
GENEVE



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Solicitors convicted in £8m fraud case

By Robert Miller

TWO men, including the senior partner of one of the largest firms of solicitors in Hastings, East Sussex, have been convicted for their part in defrauding about £8 million from more than 1,000 beneficiaries, and will appear at Maidstone Crown court for sentencing today.

Both men can expect to receive prison terms for what has been described by the Serious Fraud Office, which bought the case, as a "cynical and particularly unpleasant crime against innocent people".

Graham Maurice Durnford Ford, 52, a senior parter of Durnford Ford, which collapsed in May 1992, pleaded guilty to 10 specimen counts of theft of clients money, involving £5 million in October.

Sentencing on Ford was delayed while his co-accused William Digby Bew, 33, stood trial on four charges of furnishing false information, on which he was found guilty yesterday.

The case was bought by the Serious Fraud Office in conjunction with Sussex police.

Ford, the driving force behind Durnford Ford, lived a lavish lifestyle funded by proceeds stolen from the estates of deceased clients.

Serious Fraud Office investigators found that between 1988 and 1992 Ford spent more than £870,000. This included £250,000 on his "splendid" house in Battle, Sussex, for the installation of a swimming pool and other improvements. The house was transferred to his wife's name prior to the collapse of the legal firm and Ford being struck off the roll of solicitors by the Law Society, the profession's governing body. The Solicitors Compensation Fund has paid out around £8 million to former clients of Durnford Ford.

The Serious Fraud Office said that Ford also transferred £250,000 to his joint bank account with his wife, took an average of £200,000 a year from the business, compared with between £30,000 and £40,000 for his partners, and a further £44,000 placed in Mrs Ford's personal account.

Ford also pre-paid £25,000 to Beneden School, whose former pupils include the Princess Royal, for his daughter's fees. He also spent £63,000 on his American Express card, a further £34,000 on Barclaycard and £31,000 in cash.

Ford worked his scam by billing the deceased client's estate on an interim and final basis. Ford, however, never actually sent out the interim bills, although he took the money.

In one example a gross estate valued at £32,000 was charged £11,000 which is at least £9,000 above the average bill that might have been levied by an honest practioner.

Bew, who was in charge of the Probate department, was involved in the final billing stage, knowing that clients had been charged an interim bill but without including this information on the final bill.

Andrew Jackson, the senior Serious Fraud Office lawyer who led the successful prosecution, said: "Ford is responsible for a particularly cynical and unpleasant crime. He exploited people who were at their most vunerable and also devastated the lifes of wholly innocent people he worked with."

The former partners in Durnford Ford have also lost out. They all face equity partner liability bills, have lost their homes and been forced to move out of the area even though they were unaware of Ford's fraudulent activities. The firm's employees were also losers.

EU nations must tackle deficits says OECD

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

EUROPEAN countries hoping to join a common currency must be ambitious in planning to cut budget deficits and must tackle structural rigidities in their labour markets before they lose their independence over interest rate policy, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development warned yesterday.

The OECD, in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook, said that, on policies announced, only four countries — Germany, France, Britain and Luxembourg — would meet the Maastricht Treaty's debt-to-gross domestic product ratios. It said "the fiscal retrenchment required in some countries over the next two years will be substantial" to cut deficits towards the Maastricht limit of 3 per cent of GDP.

The OECD emphasised the importance of continued efforts to cut budget deficits, not just because of the Maastricht timetable, but also because these would allow lower interest rates. These, it argued, are necessary to create the high levels of consumer and business confidence which would create more employment.

Once a single currency is in place, it said the consequences of delay in making structural reforms to deal with high unemployment would become increasingly visible. It said even on the most optimistic assumptions, overall unemployment in the European Union would remain high.

The OECD report highlighted a slowdown in the pace of economic expansion in the industrialised countries which it represents, compared with both last year and its own projections in June this year. However, it said inflation remained low, interest rates had fallen in most countries and exchange rates were closer in line with economic fundamentals.

It predicted that total OECD growth would pick up to 2.6 per cent in 1996 from 2.4 per cent this year. But industrialised countries in Europe should see growth slowing from a pace of 2.9 per cent this year to 2.6 per cent in 1996.

The OECD expressed particular concern about Japan and the fragility of its financial system. It predicted that the Japanese economy would grow by 0.3 per cent this year, rising to 2 per cent in 1996. It said that the fiscal package announced by Tokyo in September should help to promote a recovery in domestic demand, but, should the economy be weaker than it projects, priority should be given to the use of the remaining, although small, room for further monetary easing.

It urged Japan to tackle bad and non-performing loans in its financial sector as soon as possible.

The OECD's forecast for Britain was completed on November 10, before the Budget and the subsequent ¼-point base rate cut. Without this information, it predicted that the economy would grow by 2.4 per cent, below the 3 per cent Budget forecast.

Coal funds group sold to Friends Provident

By Robert Miller

FRIENDS PROVIDENT, the British fund management group, has won its bid to buy CINMan, the company that looks after the £17 billion British Coal Pension Schemes.

British Coal declined to disclose the price that Friends Provident will pay and said that it expected definitive agreements to be signed in January. It is understood, however, that Friends Provident, which will double its £15 billion funds under management, will pay about £7.6 million now and a further £2.4 million or so after two years, subject to performance.

This was similar to the deal signed with Jupiter Tyndall last year for Queen Anne's Gate Asset Management, the company set up in 1989 to manage some £2 billion from the privatised water companies' pension funds.

Friends Provident, which will become the UK's 10th largest fund manager, beat off a final rival bid by Sal Oppenheim, a German company. Michael Doerr, group chief executive of Friends Provident, said: "We are looking forward to working closely with the Trustees of the Coal Schemes and to the continued provision of a high quality fund management service for the long term."

The British Coal deal, part of a process to sell all its business operations, will transfer the management of the British Coal Staff scheme and the Mineworkers Pension scheme, on which a total of 550,000 miners and staff have a claim. In October, CINVen was sold to management in a deal believed to be worth less than £5 million.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Jack Leonard, chairman, left, and Claes Hultman will concentrate on new products

Eurotherm drives up 31%

By Alasdair Murray

EUROTHERM, the specialist electronics company, unveiled sparkling full-year figures yesterday. Profits soared 31 per cent to £34 million, boosted by a particularly strong performance in the drives and gauging division.

In an upbeat statement, the company promised further growth next year. Claes Hultman, chief executive, said: "Eurotherm is on track and delivering growth. Our strategy is based on organic growth and we have made massive improvements over the past five years." The company said it had not ruled out acquisitions but that it was rare to find complementary businesses that would enhance shareholder value; instead it would continue to concentrate on developing new products.

Eurotherm added it had benefited this year from recovery in Europe and a resumption in capital investment in the paper and process industries which it supplies with temperature control equipment and recording instruments. Turnover increased 16 per cent to £194.5 million, while pre-tax margins rose from 15.5 to 17.5 per cent. The dividend was increased from 5.5p to 7.5p and will be paid on 12 April 1996.

Tempus, page 24

Engineers reveal slowing growth and orders

By Philip Bassett
Industrial editor

ENGINEERING leaders yesterday claimed that rising investment in the industry suggests further growth in output in the new year. But the latest business trends survey from the EEF engineering employers showed growth and orders have slowed over the past six months, and that export orders are falling back.

Though EEF leaders put a positive gloss on their figures, the more mixed pattern overall is in line with the findings of other large-scale business surveys, which are beginning to show a decline — especially in domestic orders.

In its survey, taken before last week's interest rate cut, a sample of more than 1,700 engineering firms showed capital investment continuing to rise strongly. Thirty-two per cent of those surveyed reported an increase in capital expenditure plans, and only 9 per cent recorded a fall.

Graham Mackenzie, EEF director-general, said: "The continuing rise in investment by engineering companies is a very encouraging sign of confidence for 1996. We expect further real growth in engineering output during 1996.

"Growth in orders has slowed during the last two quarters of 1995, but output shows no sign of falling."

Output and new orders continued to grow during the last three months of 1995 at a similar rate to the previous quarter. A balance of 22 per cent of firms reported a rise in output, while a balance of 12 per cent said there had been an increase in new orders. While new UK orders continue to increase, growth is slow. Thirty-four per cent of firms said there was a rise, and 30 per cent a fall.

While export orders are continuing to grow quicker than domestic orders, growth in exports is also slowing. The balance of 9 per cent of firms seeing export orders increasing will come as a further sign of a slowdown in overall export growth — which has been vital to the recovery.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BNFL to build £360m plant at Sellafield

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS, the government-owned company that supplies fuel to nuclear plants and treats waste from the industry, is to build a £360 million plant that it says will create 1,000 jobs in construction and operation. The plant at the Sellafield site in Cumbria will use what the company claims is new technology to treat intermediate level radioactive waste and is scheduled to run by 2002. It will convert the waste, which currently has to be stored as a liquid, into dry material which can be compressed and stored in drums using a fraction of the space that is required at present.

The development has been several years in the designing and, once in operation, BNFL plans to export the technique. Most of the waste processed at the plant will come from the Sellafield nuclear reactors, although some will be sent from elsewhere. The large investment comes just a week after British Energy, the holding company for the soon-to-be privatised Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, abandoned immediate plans to build new reactors. BNFL said that the plant should result in lifetime savings of about £500 million on the costs of intermediate level waste management.

Howden edges ahead

HOWDEN GROUP, the tunnelling, process equipment and aerospace equipment company, reported a 26 per cent rise in order intake to £243 million in the first half. A strong performance in the Pacific Basin, South Africa and parts of Europe more than offsetting difficult trading in other regions, particularly North America. But profits before tax rose just £400,000 to £10.98 million in the six months to October 31. The interim dividend is increased to 0.95p a share from 0.89p, due on May 1. The shares were unchanged at 67p.

AEG disposals cost jobs

AEG, the German rail and engineering group, said at least 1,700 jobs would be lost after the sale of its energy and industrial automotation units to GEC Alsthom and Cegelec, of France, respectively. AEG said GEC Alsthom would take over a large part of its power business and that its industrial automation business would be grouped in a holding company, in which Cegelec would have a 51 per cent stake and AEG 49 per cent. AEG said more jobs would probably go after the sale of smaller units to CWB Capital Partners.

BTG agrees placing

BTG, which specialises in developing and licensing patents for new technologies, has agreed to a placing in response to strong demand in the market since its June flotation at 225p a share. Originally, BTG's venture capital and university investors had agreed not to sell their interest for a year but this was partly relaxed in October and now, 556,500 of the original investors' shares, or 3.2 per cent of BTG's share capital, have been placed by Kleinwort Benson with institutional investors, at £10.50 a share. The shares fell 30p to £10.35.

Thames Water project

THAMES WATER has finalised the £558 million water supply project for the Turkish city of Izmit after five years of study and negotiation. The company is the single largest investor with 35 per cent of the equity. About 85 per cent of the project is covered by loans supported by the Commercial and Export Credit Agency, with the remaining 15 per cent being subscribed by the project sponsors. Construction is expected to begin in January, when the loan agreements become effective.

Persona in £20m deal

PERSONA GROUP, a UK distributor of networking and communications products for personal computers, is acquiring Financiere Top Log, a distributor of Unix, network and communications products for £19.9 million. The deal will be funded through a 17-for-20 rights issue of new shares at 225p each, raising about £21.1 million. Top Log operates in France, Britain, Spain, Germany and Belgium. In the year to September 30, the company's turnover was £63.5 million and profits were £2.2 million before tax. Persona shares fell 10p to 271p.

Trinity expands

TRINITY HOLDINGS, the specialist vehicles company that owns the Dennis brand, is to acquire the aircraft and handling division of ML Holdings for £14.25 million. The division, which comprises ML Douglas Holdings and Schopf Maschinenbau, achieved turnover of £28.2 million and operating profits of £800,000, excluding group charges, in the year ended March 31. Net assets were £9.3 million. Trinity is funding the acquisition through a placing of 4.3 million new shares at 329p each. ML will use the funds to repay borrowings.

PolyGram issues profit warning

By Martin Barrow

POLYGRAM, the music and entertainment group, struck a sour note with investors yesterday, with a profit warning that wiped almost 11 per cent from the value of its shares.

The company, whose majority shareholder is Philips, the Dutch electronics group, has achieved a compound annual growth rate of 20 per cent in net income since 1990. So investors were shocked by the disclosure that net profits for 1995 would be, at best, flat, particularly after the company returned a 15 per cent rise in sales in profits in the first half of the year.

Alain Levy, PolyGram's president and chief executive officer, said: "Any creative company has seasonal setbacks. We have had a cold spell in the second half of 1995."

Industry observers were less sanguine. "They've always published double digit growth ... Something must have gone terribly wrong," said Ab Barneveld, an analyst at CLN & Van Eeghen, the Dutch broker.

The company, whose shares were floated in London in October 1989, blamed a below-par pop release schedule in the second half, delays in the delivery of key albums, the lack of a big hit from the film division and a strong appreciation of the guilder. During the year, the currency rose 9 per cent against PolyGram's main currencies, the dollar, yen and sterling.

Sting: new album next year

This is all a far cry from Mr Levy's upbeat statement in July that the company "is in good shape and on course for a further year of progress in sales and profits". But he remains defiant. "We have a more robust release schedule for the current year," he said.

Just how robust remains to be seen. In a business where major artists come and go with the seasons, PolyGram's roster faces a tough battle for sales. The hopes of investors ride with the likes of Bryan Adams, the Cranberries, Sheryl Crow, Sting and U2, all due to release albums in 1996.

"We can expect PolyGram, a creative, well-managed company, to continue to deliver its pattern of success in the future," said Mr Levy.

Bruton flies in to aid steel deal

By Christine Buckley

JOHN BRUTON, the Irish Prime Minister, flew into London last night for an emergency meeting with the head of the company that wants to buy Irish Steel. His hastily arranged meeting came as lobbying stepped up ahead of today's EU industry council meeting to persuade Britain to sanction a rescue plan for the Irish company.

Tensions are growing between London and Dublin over Britain's vetoing of government aid for Irish Steel which would ensure increased production and a smooth sale to ISPAT, the Indian corporation that wants to buy the company. State aid requires the backing of all EU members of the industry council but Britain is standing alone in refusing to back the award. Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, said the rescue package for Irish Steel would endanger up to 1,000 jobs in Britain. On Monday a delegation of Irish politicians returned to Dublin, having failed to persuade Mr Eggar to change his mind.

Meanwhile exhaustive talks are continuing between London and Dublin in an effort to see if the two can strike a deal on restricting export markets and product ranges.

Japan plans to bail out mortgage companies

By Our City Staff

IN A first step towards confronting Japan's bad debt hangover from the 1980s, the Government yesterday announced a plan to spend taxpayers' money to help to bail out troubled mortgage companies.

Government officials are rushing to get the appropriations written into draft budget legislation that should be submitted to the various ministries today.

Masayoshi Takemura, the Finance Minister, defended the rescue plan, which is sure to be opposed because 680 billion yen (£4.41 billion) will have to come from the public coffers.

"The financial system is an artery of the Japanese economy, but that area is saddled with massive problem loans and suffering from cancer," Mr Takemura said. "A drastic surgical operation is needed to remove the tumor."

The seven housing loan corporations, or *jusen*, are holding about 7.5 trillion yen (7,500 billion yen) worth of problem debt. The plan was approved in a special Cabinet meeting yesterday.

A recession and relatively low property prices have dogged Japan for nearly four years, riddling Japanese lending institutions with debts. The resolution of the mortgage company crisis is sure to be just a prelude to the eventual tackling of massive bank debts.

Takemura: defended plan

Public opposition to using government money in the bailout remains strong. Commentators attacked the plan, and it could undermine the coalition government of the Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama.

Several leading banks funded housing lenders in the late 1980s, when real estate prices were soaring and the Finance Ministry wanted to encourage private citizens to invest in homes. The banks and other financial organisations connected with wealthy agricultural co-operatives together made trillions of yen in ill-fated loans to the housing lenders. When the value of the land used as collateral on the resulting mortgages collapsed in the early 1990s, so did the value of all that debt and the mortgage companies.

Finance Ministry officials and counterparts in the Agriculture Ministry have spent months trying to work out how the burden should be divided. The controversy is coming to a head because the Government has to decide by tomorrow whether tax money should be used.

The Finance Ministry and Agriculture Ministry have proposed that the funding banks bear 3.5 trillion yen (3,500 billion yen) of the losses, and that other banks that made loans to the companies bear 1.7 trillion yen (1,700 billion yen). Another 1.2 trillion yen (1,200 billion yen) of the total would be converted into a debt-liquidating company, to which the agricultural-affiliated creditors would contribute 530 billion yen. The latest version of the proposal will only cover 6.41 trillion yen (6,410 billion yen) of the 7.5 trillion yen (7,500 billion yen) that must eventually be dealt with.

The *jusen* bailout is sure to set a precedent for a plan to deal with the huge amounts of bad bank debts. The banks acknowledge holding about 40 trillion yen in non-performing loans, but the Government has admitted that the amount would be higher if calculated by non-Japanese standards.

Loan portfolio changes hands

ANGLO IRISH BANK has bought a £69 million corporate loan portfolio from Allied Dunbar Assurance (Patricia Tehan writes).

The sale is part of Allied Dunbar's strategy of moving out of non-core businesses.

Peter Killen, director of risk assets at Anglo Irish, said the loans were all based in the UK and of excellent quality. The average size of loan in the portfolio is £450,000.

The acquisition is part of Anglo Irish's intention to build "a diversified loan book in the medium-sized corporate and professional market in both the UK and Ireland".

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	16.54	15.04
Belgium Fr	48.40	44.10
Canada $	2.230	2.070
Cyprus Cyp£	0.743	0.686
Denmark Kr	9.17	8.37
Finland Mkk	7.22	6.57
France Fr	8.02	7.37
Germany Dm	2.36	2.15
Greece Dr	388.00	361.00
Hong Kong $	12.56	11.58
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2100	4.5600
Italy Lira	2588.00	2411.00
Japan Yen	170.80	154.80
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.627	2.397
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	10.35	9.55
Portugal Esc	243.00	224.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.40
Spain Pta	195.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	10.84	10.04
Switzerland Fr	1.91	1.79
Turkey Lira	refer	83636.0
USA $	1.638	1.508

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

هكذا من الأصل

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☐ Bancorp deal could mean cash for shareholders ☐ Byatt's plans do not add up ☐ Edwards looks for fresh funds

NatWest not so Fleet of foot

☐ AT LAST NatWest *has* recognised the feelings of its long-suffering shareholders and given *the first firm* indication that it might consider returning their cash to them.

This is the only reason for a higher NatWest share price yesterday. Everything else about its agreement to sell Bancorp to Fleet Financial is disappointing. NatWest has been buying *far* smaller US banks for two and a half times their book value: this *deal values Bancorp* at around 1.6 times. Even Derek Wanless could only manage a grudging "acceptable" in praise of the value of the sale.

The headline figure of $3.56 billion is at the very bottom end of hopes that had ranged from $4 billion to $5 billion. In fact, on further analysis the price is not even that attractive. It is a *convoluted deal designed*, in part, to get around the pain that Fleet would suffer in its profit and loss account by paying cash for a subsidiary of a foreign-owned organisation. *If it* had been buying a stand-alone US bank, Fleet would have been able to use merger accounting to avoid the problem of amortisation of goodwill by merging the two.

NatWest is buying back unwanted assets of $400 million, which takes the consideration down to $3.16 billion. To assist Fleet in its goodwill problem, $560 million *is deferred for up to* eight years and subject to an earn-out, taking the initial sum *down to $2.6 billion*. NatWest could end up with cash of just $2.125 billion on completion next May, plus another $475 million in Fleet stock, only part of which it could sell for cash at once.

There is no disputing the logic of a sale. NatWest would have needed to *spend substantial* amounts of cash to fight on with Bancorp and maintain its position *in* New York and New Jersey. Other options, including a partial stock market flotation and selling off the bank *in* parts, have been ruled out. With the sale, NatWest has achieved its aim of pulling out of retail banking in the US in one go.

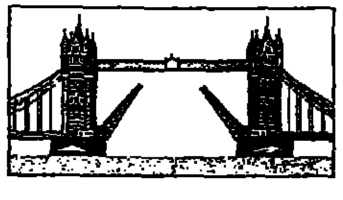
The sale removes uncertainty and leaves the bank free to devote capital to its core businesses, from which it would hope to generate a higher rate of return and where *there is* certainly room for improvement. NatWest has not done as well as *some competitors at increasing* income from fees and commissions and its large corporate loan book is tying up capital at low *margins. On return on equity*, NatWest is one of the poor performers of the sector, with a *18 per cent against* an average of over 20 per cent.

The sale will depress earnings per share — by around 7 per cent in a normal year. The bank may need to buy back its shares simply in order to maintain their earnings. Although NatWest was *refusing to give any clue* yesterday about how it would use the proceeds, there will be real pressure to use newly gained powers to buy back shares and provide shareholders with a real return at last.

Comparators are onerous

☐ MEMO to anyone shopping for presents for a regulator: socks and ties always come in handy, but you can never have too many *comparators*. Regulators are deeply attached to their comparators, and this year's wave of *bids for regulated companies has* severely depleted their number just in time for Christmas.

PENNINGTON



One of them, Ian Byatt, at Ofwat, has come up with a novel scheme to maintain supplies. Yesterday was the last date for comments to him and his colleague at Offer over the Welsh Water bid for South Wales Electricity, and both will shortly be putting their views to the Office of Fair Trading.

The merger would create a *super-utility similar to that* already existing in the North West, and strip Stephen Littlechild at Offer of one more quoted company *in his sector* — he is already down to just seven, poor lamb — while radically changing the nature of Welsh Water.

Mr Byatt wants a separate stock market quote for the core water business, a quarter of it to be held by outside investors. He *has also written to North West* Water, now merging with Norweb, asking it to do the same. Lyonnaise des Eaux, of France, which is buying Northumbrian Water, has agreed to follow suit, but rather tentatively and by the year 2005.

Mr Byatt says that such a separate listing provides him with a comparator for his work *of setting* prices between the various companies, and would also give a parallel, City valuation of the business. Otherwise, is the implication, he might call for the whole bid to be referred.

Significantly, Professor Littlechild is not making the same plea to any of the bidders in his sector. Perhaps he thinks, quite rightly, it is a lousy idea.

The City takes against such minority holdings, which would by definition be valued without any bid premium. The price tag reached by the market is likely to be spurious, therefore, while such holdings would presumably also have to be created *retroactively for all the other* companies taken over. It is hard to see how the regulators' jobs can be made any easier by the creation of some weird *little* kindergarten of quoted minorities in regulated utilities.

Staring into the coal pit

☐ THE phrase "pending clarification of the company's financial position" has an ominous ring, *the corporate equivalent of* "the patient's condition is giving rise to some concern". The eventual clarification for shareholders *all too often* makes one thing clear: their investment is worthless.

Coal Investments has already said that the £50 million raised by investors so far since it bought the duff end of British Coal would not be enough to fund the investment needed *to bring its* six collieries up to scratch.

But Malcolm Edwards, founder and executive chairman, was confident little more than a fortnight ago that his creation would be in the black from next month. So yesterday's announce*ment came as a nasty shock even* to investors already braced to put up fresh funds.

No one is willing to predict the result of continuing talks with the banks, *but Coal Investments* is probably still on track to raise £15 million of fresh equity. *Yesterday's suspension* was to ensure an orderly market after news of a planning reversal at *Hem Heath Colliery*, near *Stoke-on-Trent*.

The colliery had hoped to cut under a Grade A listed building, to the discomfiture of its owners. The defeat is not a terminal one. But contrast the situation at Coal Investments with RJB Mining, which took the more profitable half of British Coal and was handing out festive bonuses to *workers last week. And imagine* the howls if any of the buyers of British Coal were to be allowed to collapse.

Flight of fancy

☐ THE normally redoubtable Consumers' Association has gone too far in criticising tour operators such as First Choice *who push their own product* through their high street travel shops. On any scale of difficult life decisions a holiday ranks a long way behind a mortgage or a pension. The local travel agent *should no more be required to be* an independent adviser than *Sainsbury's should be forced to* sell Marks & Spencer's own Christmas puddings.

Coats Viyella and Courtaulds issue warnings

By Sarah Bagnall

COATS VIYELLA and Courtaulds Textiles, two of Britain's largest clothing manufacturers, yesterday revealed the extent of the damage wreaked by the unusually *mild autumn* weather by issuing surprise profit warnings to their shareholders.

For both companies, the months from August to the *end of November are the four* most important of the financial year.

Traditionally, the quarter accounts for about two thirds of annual clothing profits and, therefore, the performance over the period is critical in determining profit levels for *the full* year.

The companies yesterday said that the abnormal weather during these crucial months was principally to *blame for the warning that* full-year profits would fail to match the levels achieved last year. The warm weather severely depressed demand for *winter* clothes, such as knitwear and coats.

Textile companies have also been *hit* by rising raw material prices, which they have not been able to pass on to their customers. Some easing in prices has begun to emerge.

The warnings prompted analysts to cut *their* profit forecasts. The news sent shares of Courtaulds Textiles, which is focused on clothing and fabrics, down 24p at 373p. About *25 per cent of the total sales of* Courtaulds Textiles are to Marks & Spencer.

However, shares of Coats Viyella, Britain's biggest clothing *maker*, slipped only 1p to 169p. The shares were held up by the news, also released yesterday, that the search for a new finance director had been completed with the appointment of Kirk Stephenson, who is currently finance director at *Amersham International*. Mr Stephenson, joins Coats Viyella in April, replacing Jeff Phillips who resigned in September, after six months in the job.

Neville Bain, chief executive at Coats Viyella, said profits before tax and exceptional items in the year to December 31 are expected to be "slightly" below the lower end of market expectations. This prompted *analysts to cut their forecasts* from between £147.5 million and £152 million to £142 million to £145 million. This compares with last year's pre-exceptional profit of £152.4 million.

Mr Bain said that profits from *the Indian business* were expected to fall, but that the thread business, which accounts for about half of total sales, was progressing well, as was its precision engineering operation.

Forecasts for Courtaulds *Textiles's profit* before tax and exceptional items were cut by up to £7 million, to £40 million. Noel Jervis, chief executive, said: "We had a pretty good first half, but we have had a real problem in the autumn, when the weather was exceptionally warm."

The company said demand had picked up in the UK during December, but the results for the month will largely depend on the performance in France and America, which together account for 25 *per cent of sales. The group* has been hit by depressed demand in both countries. Mr Jervis said the board expects to maintain the final dividend.

Tempus, page 24

Francis Baron, flanked by a Beefeater and a Mountie, hopes to protect First Choice profits

Central Transport steers new course

By George Sivell

CENTRAL Transport Rental, formerly known as Tiphook, told long-suffering followers yesterday that it "anticipated" presenting financial restructuring proposals to shareholders during this financial year, which ends in April.

The restructuring is likely to involve a heavy debt and bond swap for shares that would dilute the holdings of existing shareholders substantially.

Yesterday, Central Transport reported a £12.8 million *pre-tax loss in the six months* to the end of October. Debts fell to £482.8 million, supported by shareholders funds showing a £500,000 deficit.

The accounts were drawn up on a "going concern basis", which is only valid if the company continues trading for the foreseeable future and that the proposed reconstruction goes ahead. In May 1998, the group has to repay $119.4 million of US public bonds, which could not be paid without obtaining alternative borrowing facilities. The group's banks have provided working capital facilities until May 1 1998.

Ian Clubb, chairman, said: "The form of financial restructuring currently being progressed would involve the conversion of a significant amount of the group's existing bond and bank debt into new ordinary shares."

He added: "While there is a considerable amount of work to be done to agree details of such a restructuring — and until such an agreement is reached and documented there can be no certainty as to the outcome — shareholders should be aware that such a restructuring would involve a significant dilution of their equity interests in the company."

Buyback costs NatPower £260m

By Christine Buckley

NATIONAL POWER, the *UK's* largest generator, *has* spent more than £260 million in a surprise move to buy back a chunk of its shares.

The company, whose bid for *Southern* Electric is being looked at by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, went into the market yesterday to buy 57 million shares at 428p. The purchase, equivalent to 4.4 per cent of its capital, was *signalled at National* Power's annual meeting but the timing was unexpected.

National Power is responding to MMC inquiries over its wish to buy Southern. A report is due from the commission by March 22. The *company denied that* ploughing £260 million into a buyback indicated that it had gone cold on the idea. A spokesman said: "It has always been our intention to buy back a proportion of the shares and now seemed a *good opportunity with the* price having fallen."

The share price has tumbled since Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, referred the bid for Southern, along with that by PowerGen for Midlands Electricity, *to the MMC*.

The buy-back will boost the earnings per share of *National Power by between* 2 and 3 per cent. This will make up for the fall in earnings caused by the generator's sale of three power plants, demanded by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, to encourage competition in generation. National Power said that talks with four bidders were progressing and that a deal should be clinched by the end of March, within the regulator's deadline, for which the generator will be *rewarded with* an easing of price controls.

Lang: referred bids

First Choice banks on holiday cut

By Sarah Bagnall

FRANCIS BARON, chief executive at First Choice, said he *hoped the decision* by Britain's tour operators to cut the number of *holidays* on offer next summer by 1.5 million would be enough to boost the company's flagging profits.

He said January would be the key month in determining *whether the 15 per cent cut in* capacity would prevent another summer of swingeing price cuts.

He said that First Choice, Britain's third biggest tour operator, was also cutting the commissions paid to travel agents, which will limit the size of discounts offered by agents. Mr Baron *made* his remarks as he reported a slump in pre-tax profits from £16.3 million to £1.3 million in the year to October 31. The decline, which included £1.1 *million of redundancy costs*, was in line with expectations after a profit warning.

The company is dipping into reserves to help pay a maintained final dividend of 2.45p, which makes a total for the year of 3.85p. The dividend is payable on April 12. Earnings per share slipped from 5.1p to a loss of 1.7p. The shares *remained* unchanged at 64p.

Tempus, page 24

Cash from Warner-Lambert joint venture will repay debt

Glaxo Wellcome sale to earn $1bn

By Eric Reguly

GLAXO WELLCOME has agreed to sell its share of one of its two joint ventures with *Warner-Lambert*, the American pharmaceuticals company, for $1 billion in cash. It is the first significant disposal since Glaxo bought Wellcome early *this* year for £9.3 billion.

The money will be used to pay off some of the debt taken on by Glaxo to finance the Wellcome acquisition. The City welcomed the effort to reduce Glaxo's net debt, which stands at about £3.5 billion; the shares, which were trading at 861p in a falling market before the announcement, closed at 878p, down 7p. *The joint venture* being sold was set up by Wellcome and Warner-Lambert early last year. *It distributed* non-prescription drugs, such as Actifed and Listerine, that were produced by both companies. Sales are expected to exceed $1.6 billion this year.

Glaxo said that the joint venture did not fit into its long-term strategy. The company is more concerned with marketing over-the-counter versions of prescription drugs than non-prescription drugs.

Glaxo will keep its other joint venture with Warner-Lambert, which was launched in 1993 to market over-the-counter *versions of Glaxo's prescription* drugs. Profits from these "switched" drugs were shared equally, with Glaxo receiving a royalty on the sales. The joint *venture will be restructured to include* other products, including an over-the-counter version of Zovirax, a cream for cold sores. Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, said: "We are pleased to announce agreement in principle to the establishment of a new, simplified relationship with Warner-Lambert whereby, *through a single joint venture, Glaxo will* continue to develop over-the-counter opportunities for its research-based prescription products."

The company said it expected to *complete the sale* of the joint venture before next summer.

Tempus, page 24

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS AS A MATTER OF RECORD ONLY

Management Buy-In of
Weddel Swift Ltd

Working capital facilities
of £6.79m provided by
Confidential Invoice
Discounting Ltd.
Structured, led and
arranged by

BARNES MENZIES
CORPORATE FINANCE

Confidential Invoice Discounting Limited
is a wholly owned subsidiary of International Factors

International Factors
INSTANT INCOME FROM INVOICES

International Factors,
Sovereign House, Church Street, Brighton BN1 1SS
Tel: 0800 521371 Fax: 01273 207651

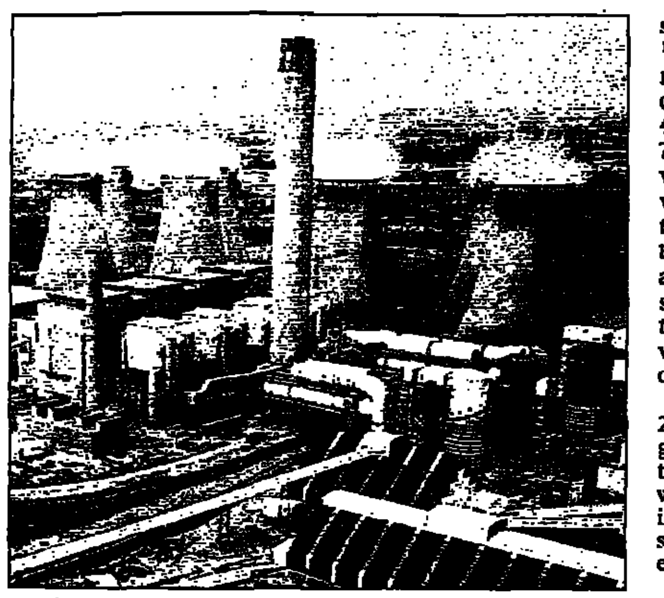
STOCK MARKET PHILIP PANGALOS

Profit warnings test nerves of investors

INVESTORS in London struggled to regain their composure in volatile trading after the shock of Monday's 101-point tumble on Wall Street and profit warnings from some well known UK companies further tested nerves in a jittery City.

An initial markdown was followed by widespread profit-taking in uneasy early trading ahead of Wall Street's opening after the overnight slide in New York. Many investors simply decided to lock in some of the profits they have enjoyed after the recent bull run.

Traders were additionally concerned about the possibility of more program trades when trading resumed across the Atlantic. There was also short-covering and uncertainty before the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee meeting on interest rates, while the US budget impasse continued.



National Power bought back 57 million of its own shares

A 37-point fall for the FT-SE 100 index at one point largely corresponded to the losses suffered in New York after the London market had closed on Monday. However, a mildly positive, if uncertain, start on Wall Street helped to bolster late London trading, although the next few days will be influenced by Wall Street's direction. The FT-SE 100 index partly recovered to end 19.2 lower at 3,576.9. Volume, boosted by book-squaring and large one-off trades, reached 827 million shares.

Volume was boosted by a bumper block of 119.5 million shares in **National Power**, up 2p to 429p, as it bought back 57 million of its own shares for cancellation, paying 428p a share in the market. The £44 million deal is expected to be earnings enhancing, although it will increase gearing. When added to the 7.6 per cent bought earlier in the year from the Government, National Power has reduced its market capital by 12 per cent.

Elsewhere in the sector, **PowerGen** gained 12p to 514p, boosted by reports of a Humber electricity supply contract. **National Grid** dipped 1p to 199p, on heavy volume of 50.6 million shares, with Salomon Brothers said to have been involved in a bought deal of 25 million shares originating from Southern Electric of the US, which recently acquired South Western Electricity.

Among banks, **National Westminster** stood out with a 19½p advance to 649p on confirmation of the sale of the group's US commercial and retail banking operations to Fleet Financial Group, a US-based financial services company, in a $3.56 billion deal.

Elsewhere in the sector, **Bank of Scotland** fell 7½p to 277p, **Barclays** 5p to 751p, **Lloyds** 9p to 830p, **Royal Bank of Scotland** 17p to 568p and **TSB** 3p to 392p. However, **Abbey National**, which is expected to benefit from mortgage rate cuts, enjoyed an 8p rise to 627p, with dealers saying the stock has been oversold.

The market was pleased with the move by **BTR** to sell Dunlop Slazenger, its sports equipment division, to CINVen in a deal worth more than £300 million. BTR rose to 322½p before ending unchanged at 316p, on volume of 9.9 million shares. Among other international companies with strong dollar-related interests, **Cadbury-Schweppes** fell 17p to 530p, **BOC Group** 15p to 881p, **RTZ** 16p to 930p, **Standard Chartered** 19p to 546p, **Bass** 18½p to 692½p, **Siebe** 16p to 766p, and **General Accident**, which has a large exposure to US bonds, 20p to 623p. **Glaxo Wellcome** lost 20p to 865p in spite of news that it is restructuring its OTC joint venture with Warner-Lambert by selling Wellcome's OTC interests to Warner-Lambert for £1.05 billion. **Zeneca** fell 21½p to £12.18 in spite of US Food and Drug Administration clearance for its Zoladex treatment for breast cancer.

High-yielding defensive blue-chip stocks weathered the storm best. **Hanson** firmed ½p to 185p, on volume of 20 million shares, while **GEC** climbed ½p to 317p, **TI** 2p to 429p and **North West Water** 7p to 587p. **British Gas** advanced 10½p to 239½p, on volume of 18.6 million shares traded as investors decided that the worst was known after the appointment of a special negotiator to deal with take-or-pay contracts, while vague talk of a bid from **Shell**, down 8p to 834p, resurfaced.

Courtaulds Textiles dived 24p to 373p as brokers downgraded profit forecasts after the group issued a profits warning after a deterioration in trading conditions, unseasonal weather and margin erosion.

Coats Viyella also said that its full-year clean pre-tax profit it was expected to be slightly below the lower end of market forecasts. The shares dipped 1p to 169p.

W Canning tumbled 18p to 212p after it issued a cautious trading statement and profits warning, while **Eurotherm** fell 18p to 536p after accompanying higher full-year profits with a cautious statement on future growth. **Laporte** fell 24p to 641p, depressed by negative noises from James Capel.

But **Vosper Thornycroft** steamed 16p higher to 803p on news that it is part of a consortium that has won a Royal Navy training contract through a joint venture with GEC Marconi.

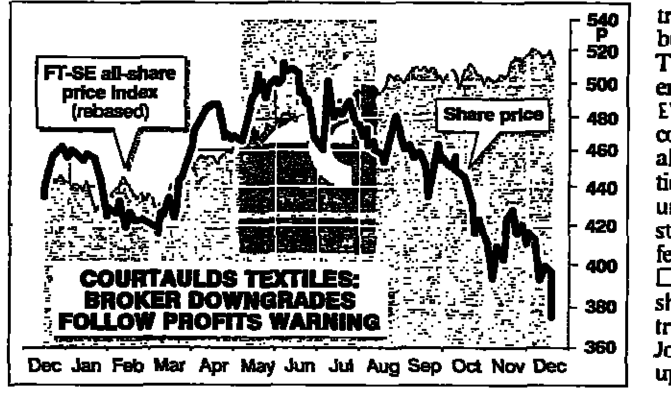
Stagecoach, the bus group, drove to an 11p gain to 293p after it was awarded the South West Trains rail franchise for seven years, the first rail line to move into private hands.

Tarmac rose 4½p to 109½p after a reiterated buy recommendation from SBC Warburg in the wake of the Wimpey asset swap.

GILT-EDGED: Nervous overseas bond markets dragged gilts lower in thin trading, although domestic buying helped to trim losses. The March long gilt future ended 19 ticks lower at £109²⁵⁄₃₂, on volume of 51,000 contracts. Among conventional stocks, shorts fell by up to 10 ticks, but ultra longs underperformed and losses stretched to £⅝. Index-linked fell ten ticks.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares were mixed in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 2.53 points at 5,077.74.

Shares in PolyMASC, a biopharmaceutical company that intends to license products and processes to the pharmaceutical and medical diagnostics industry, made a healthy debut on the Alternative Investment Market. The shares raced to 152p, before settling at 129p, compared with a 100p placing price.



COURTAULDS TEXTILES: BROKER DOWNGRADES FOLLOW PROFITS WARNING

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5077.74 (+2.53)
S&P Composite	606.84 (-0.03)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	19140.49 (-170.59)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	9705.86 (-100.72)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	472.51 (-1.74)

Sydney:

AO	2182.80 (-24.90)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2235.62 (-30.57)

Singapore:

Straits	2187.34 (-13.20)

Brussels:

General	8253.34 (-74.24)

Paris:

CAC-40	1810.21 (-10.26)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	693.50 (-9.20)

London:

FT 30	2594.3 (-9.8)
FT 100	3576.9 (-19.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	3937.4 (-16.6)
FT-SE-A 350	1778.6 (-9.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1450.49 (-15.23)
FT A All-Share	1753.78 (-9.04)
FT Non Financials	1849.6 (-9.90)
FT Fixed Interest	114.31 (-0.65)
FT Govt Secs	95.53 (-0.40)
Bargains	27556
SEAQ Volume	932.9m
USM (Datastrm)	186.82 (-2.38)
US$	1.5435 (+0.0050)
German Mark	2.2160 (+0.0129)
Exchange Index	82.9 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1787
£:SDR	1.0352
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Hi Inc C (100)	95½	- 1
CMG (290)	327	- 3
Cash Converters Intl	24	...
Century Inns	118½	...
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cortworth (150)	151	...
Cox Insurance	110	...
Dmarek	81	- 6
East Surrey NV	448	...
Fins Tech Tst (100)	102	+ 1
Gardner (I)	134	...
Geared Income C	98	...
Gearhouse Gp (200)	202	- 1
Jasmin	83	...
London Town	80	...
Manx & O'seas	25	- 2
Martin Curr Jap	96½	- ½
Martin Curr Jap Wts	35	...
National Grid (204)	199	- 1
Peptide Thrptcs (200)	230	- 1
Pet City	365	- 2
Polymasc Pharms	129	...
Revelation Picc	100	...
Rushmere Wynne	3½	...
Rushmere Wynne Wts	¼	...
Trocadero	48	+ 1
Viewinn	130	- 5
Wilmington	66	- 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dnloe Hse n/p (Ir10p)	1½	...
Melrose n/p (34)	4¼	- 2¼
Roxspur n/p (3)	¼	...
TBI n/p (50)	3	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

British Gas	239½p (+10½p)
Stagecoach	293p (+11p)
Nat West	649p (+19½p)

FALLS:

W Canning	212p (-18p)
Pacer Systems	165p (-13p)
Psion	785p (-60p)
Courtauld Text	373p (-24p)
Scotia	525p (-33p)
Standard Chart	546p (-19p)
Telspec	810p (-32p)
Laporte	641p (-24p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

No riches, only rags

TWO profit warnings from textile companies should have a sobering effect on any investor who thought the new year would bring cheer to the rag trade. In fact, the outlook for profits is grim and there are good reasons to believe that by the end of 1996 there will be considerably fewer people employed in the industry in the UK than there are currently.

Courtauld's trading statement contained more news than that of Coats Viyella and was all the more alarming for it. Weak sales of winter garments because of warm weather in the Autumn and the effect of the slow housing market on upholstery sales was hardly new. Likewise, comments about the state of the high street from Marks & Spencer should have put investors on notice that Courtauld, which makes a quarter of its sales from M&S, would be suffering price pressure from its biggest customer. Had that been the end of the story Courtauld might have been able to maintain profit at last year's level but the upheaval in France and a sudden slowdown in America has tipped the balance into a decline. It appears to have been caught wrong-footed by a bout of destocking in the US. Facing slower than expected sales in December, the powerful American retailers are not filling racks and shelves fast enough to keep Courtauld happy.

In such an unforgiving world, businesses need to be both fleet of foot and low in cost. Coats and Courtaulds will benefit from a softening in the price of raw materials next year. However, there is no sign that the consumer is ready to spend more, and the pressure is on the rag trade to seek low-cost solutions offshore.

First Choice

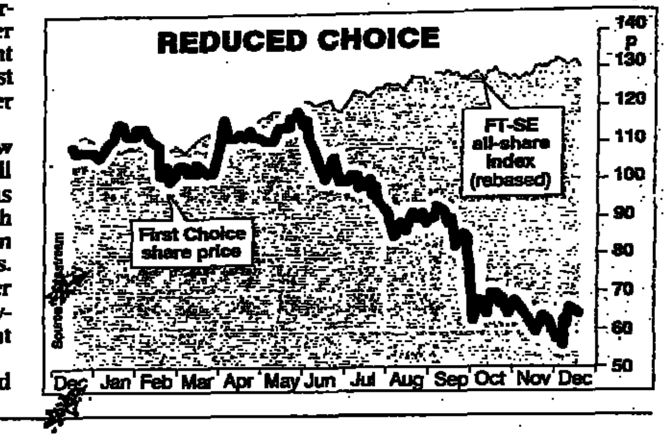
JUST as Britain's tour operators caused the holiday glut and collapse in profits, so the industry's salvation rests in their hands. Last summer was probably the worst on record for operators, who tore up the year's profits in a frenzy of discounting as they attempted to shift unsold holidays. Industry net margins fell from about 6 per cent to less than 2 per cent while the return at First Choice slipped below 1 per cent.

The big unknown is how the summer 1996 season will shape up. Early indications are far from favourable, with bookings down sharply in the run-up to Christmas. First Choice suffered a 14 per cent drop by the end of November, against a 30 per cent decline for the industry.

Lower bookings prompted a cut in capacity of about 15 per cent — equating to 1.5 million fewer holidays — in a bid to bring supply back in autumn bookings can be misleading; the key indicator is January which typically accounts for about a quarter of sales.

First Choice is not relying on the volume reduction to improve its profits. It has cut costs and improved the profit mix of by moving to higher-margin all-inclusive holidays. These now account for 20 per cent of sales from nil last year.

However, the outcome still depends on the mood of consumers in the new year and cautious investors will keep First Choice off the Christmas shopping list.



Glaxo

WELLCOME'S joint venture with Warner-Lambert was never a great success for the former company and Glaxo Wellcome has done well to exit from the arrangement with $1 billion in cash and a continuing joint venture through which to market medicines in over-the-counter form.

The original Warner-Wellcome joint venture was more than just an agreement to sell Wellcome products and the latter company suffered an unexpected restructuring charge of £52 million when the joint venture was set up. However, the main setback for Wellcome was the failure to secure approval from the FDA for sale in the USA of its OTC version of Zovirax. The terms of the joint venture gave Wellcome half of the European profits but only 30 per cent of the profits in the United States. Approval for Zovirax would have increased Wellcome's return from the joint venture and the medicine, which is still seeking US approval, will form part of the contuing joint venture with Warner-Lambert.

The OTC medicines being sold to Warner-Lambert had revenues of about $360 million and Glaxo has done well to achieve about 3 times sales in a transaction where there was no alternative buyer. The cash will help reduce some £3.3 billion of debt but, with interest cover of 15 times, Glaxo was never under pressure.

Eurotherm

LIKE a corporate Santa, Eurotherm, the electronics company, comes bearing Christmas gifts. Yesterday, the company raised profits for the fifth consecutive year and looks set to deliver forecast profits of £40 million next year.

Such an impressive performance has attracted flattering City attention and Eurotherm shares sit on a hefty premium of 40 per cent to the market multiple. Just reward, perhaps, for Claes Hultman, the chief executive, but a disincentive to invest in the shares.

Unlike Santa, Eurotherm is growing up into a company that shareholders can still believe in. Some of the company's products have faced a delayed market response and should continue to benefit from an upswing. Operating margins can be pushed up further, while Eurotherm's strong cash generation should easily support any ambitions to acquire businesses. Eurotherm continued to grow during the last recession, a record that should provide support for the shares when the cycle moves downwards again, as will a stronger product base. Next year's forecast allows for a slowdown, a margin of comfort that should keep investors holding the stock even at this high price.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	880-850	Mar	1003-1002
Mar	910-909	May	1012-1011
May	930-929	Jul	unq
Jul	949-948	Sep	—
Sep	967-966		
Dec	986-984	Volume: 7939	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2123-2110	Sep	1626-1625
Mar	1796-1795	Nov	1610-1600
May	1696-1695	Jan	1600-1590
Jul	1650-1645	Volume: 4595	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	307.5-06.0
Spot: 375.0		Dec	302.5-00.2
Mar	350.6-50.0	Mar	302.3-98.2
May	340.6-40.0	May	303.2-97.2
Aug	331.5-30.0	Volume: 691	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	116.73	115.73	119.89
(+/-)	+8.65	-1.76	-0.77
Eng/Wales:	117.01	116.35	119.31
(+/-)	+8.87	-1.87	-0.37
(%)	+22.0	-15.0	-22.0
Scotland:	104.98	113.31	124.27
(+/-)	-0.70	-1.04	-4.04
(%)	+16.0	-6.0	-19.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.95	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.75	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.40	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.95	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.55	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 176 (+1)	O: 178 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	177 (+1)	178 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Jan	176 (+1)	177 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	171 (n/c)	173 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	101 (+1)	102 (n/c)
Naphtha	162 (+2)	164 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	170.75-71.00	Apr	159.00-59.25
Feb	167.00-67.25	May	157.25-57.50
Mar	163.25-63.50	Vol: 16852	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	17.72-17.75	May	16.83-16.90
Mar	17.35-17.36	Jun	16.65-16.69
Apr	17.06-17.09	Vol: 18399	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	125.15	Jan	115.40
Mar	127.15	Mar	117.65
May	129.10	May	119.25
Jul	131.20	Sep	109.25
Sep	113.25	Nov	111.25
Volume: 395		Volume: 78	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	250.0	240.5
May	278.0	275.0
	Volume: 165	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 108.75-109.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 95	1636	1636	1638
Jan 96	1565	1560	1560
Feb 96	1515	1515	1508
Apr 96	1505	1500	1505
Vol: 204 lots		Open Interest: 3802	

Index 1630 -7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2879.0-2880.0	2693.0-2694.0	4013825
Lead ($/tonne)	707.50-708.50	706.00-707.00	464300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1014.0-1015.0	1039.0-1040.0	1058375
Tin ($/tonne)	6230.0-6235.0	6260.0-6265.0	31830
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1654.0-1655.0	1684.0-1684.5	3118450
Nickel ($/tonne)	8090.0-8100.0	8210.0-8220.0	81462

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom.	500	19½	37	44½	4½	12½	20½
(*515)	550	0½	13	20½	35½	40	48
Argyll	300	14½	25	29½	3½	10	16½
(*309)	330	2	11	15	21½	26½	33
ASDA	100	7½	10	14	2½	6	7
(*104½)	110	2½	6	9½	7½	11	12
Boots	550	22	38	47	5½	12½	23½
(*565)	600	2½	14½	22	36	40½	50
Br Airways	460	13½	28½	36	9	16½	23½
(*463)	500	1½	11	18	37½	40½	47
BP	500	23	33½	41	3½	11	16½
(*518)	550	1½	10	17	32½	39	42½
Br Steel	140	11½	16½	19	1	4	8
(*150)	160	1	6½	8½	11	13½	19½
C & W	420	34½	48½	56½	3½	10	16
(*449½)	460	10½	25½	34½	18½	26½	34
CU	600	25½	40½	48½	8½	26½	31
(*615)	650	4½	17½	26	37½	57½	61
ICI	700	40	52	61½	3½	20	26
(*732½)	750	11	24	36	24	46½	52
Kingfishr.	500	34	49	53½	3	13½	21½
(*529)	550	6	21	28	25	38½	47
Land Sec.	550	47	58½	64½	0½	4	11
(*594)	600	8½	24	30½	12½	19½	32½
M & S	420	16½	28	33½	4½	9½	16½
(*430)	460	1½	9½	15	30½	33	38½
Nat West.	600	48½	57½	67½	2½	16½	23½
(*643½)	650	14½	27	40½	10½	40½	47
Sainsbury	360	13	24	29	5	10½	17
(*366½)	390	2½	10	15	26	27½	34
Shell	800	38½	52½	58½	2½	15	19
(*833½)	850	6½	22	30½	22	38½	43½
SmKl Bch.	650	24	39½	53½	8½	20½	27
(*661½)	700	4½	17	30½	40	48½	54½
Storehse	330	14½	23½	31	5½	11½	16½
(*336½)	360	3	10	17	24½	28½	32½
Trafalgar	20	4½	7	8	0½	2½	3½
(*23)	25	2	5	6	3	5½	6½
Unilever.	1300	27½	53½	69½	12½	34½	43½
(*1312)	1350	7½	28	44½	42	62½	71
Zeneca	1200	42½	76	98	20	49½	64
(*1217½)	1250	19	51	73	46	77	90½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met.	420	23½	34	43½	12	16½	23
(*438½)	460	7½	16	25½	35	39	45
Ladbroke	140	19½	22½	27½	5	9½	12
(*153)	160	9½	13½	18	14	20	22½
Utd Bisc	240	20½	24½	27½	5½	11	13½
(*253)	260	9½	14½	18	14½	22	24½

December 19, 1995 Tot:42802 Call:22836 Put:19956 FT-SE Call:7104 Put:9468

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	23	35½	43	3	9	15
(*478)	500	4	14	22½	23½	28½	34
Thames W	550	22	40	48	8	16½	31
(*561½)	600	3	19	25½	40	44½	60½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BAT Ind	500	52½	57½	63	4	12½	20
(*543½)	550	20	27½	36	19½	35	44
BTR	300	22	25	30	2½	8½	11
(*316)	330	6	9	15½	16½	25	27
Br Aero	750	37½	52	71	23½	38	46½
(*755)	800	16	31½	48½	53	66½	74½
Br Telcm	330	16	23	29½	9	11½	19
(*341)	360	4½	10	16	29	30	37
Cadbury	500	44	49	58½	7½	19½	24
(*530)	550	18½	24	35	30½	45	49½
Guinness	420	42½	48½	53	3	8½	12
(*456)	460	15	23	29	14	25½	29
GEC	300	23	29½	34	3	6	10½
(*317)	330	6½	12½	17½	16½	19½	25
Hanson	180	10½	12	14	4½	6½	8½
(*185)	191	5	—	—	11	—	—
LASMO	160	19	22½	27	2	5	7
(*175)	180	7	11	16	9½	13	16
Lucas	160	16½	20½	23½	2	5	6½
(*172)	180	5½	10	13	11	14½	16
Pilkingtn	191	16	22	25½	4	5½	9½
(*201½)	210	6	11½	15½	13½	14	19
Prudential	390	32½	37	44½	8½	15	20
(*412)	420	15	21	29	18½	30½	34½
Redland	360	27	36	39½	6½	15	18
(*377)	390	11	20	24½	20½	31	34
R-Royce	160	16	18½	22½	2½	6	7½
(*172)	180	5	8	13	11½	16½	18
Tesco	280	19	23½	27½	5½	10½	13
(*291)	300	8½	12½	17½	14½	20½	23½
Vodafone	200	18½	24½	28½	5	8	10
(*211)	220	8½	14	18½	14	17½	19½
Williams	300	23	28	30½	2½	7½	10
(*318)	330	6	11	14½	15½	23½	25½

FT-SE INDEX (*3573)

	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700
Calls						
Jan	134	96	59½	35	17	7
Feb	157	119½	87½	59½	37½	21½
Mar	175½	139½	107	79	55	39
Apr	180½	149	118	94½	70½	54
Jun	—	185	—	128½	—	82
Puts						
Jan	13	23½	41	67	100	142
Feb	27	39	57½	80½	110½	147½
Mar	42	56½	74½	97½	125	160
Apr	61	79	97½	123½	150	182
Jun	—	107½	—	149	—	202

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat	600	27½	48	58	0½	20	30
(*627)	650	0½	21½	33½	34	47	57
Amstrad	200	15½	24½	31	0	6	8½
(*215½)	220	1	13½	21	5	14½	17
Barclays	700	49½	67	74	0	14	21½
(*749½)	750	6	33½	44½	5½	34½	43½
Blue Circ	300	24	33½	37½	0	5	11½
(*324)	330	1	16	20	6½	17	26
Br Gas	220	18½	26	29½	0	4	8
(*238½)	240	1½	14	18½	2½	11½	16½
Dixons	390	29	41½	52½	0	9	13
(*419)	420	2	24½	35	3½	19½	25½
Forte	300	28½	37	40	0	4	7½
(*328½)	330	1½	16	19	3	11½	20
Tarmac	100	9½	13½	16½	0	3½	6
(*109½)	110	1	8	11	1½	7½	11
Hillsdwn	160	2	9½	11½	1	6½	12½
(*161½)	180	0	3	5	18½	19½	26½
Lonrho	160	17	20	24	0	2½	5
(*177)	180	1	8	13	3½	11	13½
Sears	100	1	6½	8	1	4	6½
(*100½)	110	0	2½	3½	9½	10½	13
Thrn Eml	1500	39	86	122½	0½	35	47
(*1538½)	1600	0	40	73	61½	90½	99
Tomkins	260	9½	16½	23	0½	9	11½
(*268½)	280	0½	7½	13½	12	20	22½
TSB	390	3	8½	17½	3	26	27½
(*390½)	420	0	0	5½	29½	45	48
	Series	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo Well	850	38½	57½	71½	8½	28½	37
(*876½)	900	12	31	47	31	54½	63
HSBC	950	46	74	87	11	40	50
(*981)	1000	19½	47½	62	33	66½	75½
Reuter	550	25	41½	53	7½	22	27½
(*565½)	600	4	18	29½	37	49	54½
	Series	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Royal Ins	360	20	31½	38½	5	20	25
(*373)	390	6	18	25	20½	37½	42½
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Fisons	260	4½	4½	10½	0½	0½	0½
(*264)	280	0	0	0½	16	16	16
	Series	**Feb**	**May**		**Feb**	**May**	
Eastern Gp	950	26½	36½	—	0½	0½	—
(*972½)	1000	0	2½	—	33½	33	—
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Natl Pwr	420	9½	28½	40	0½	9½	21
(*429)	460	0	10½	21	31	33½	43½
Scot Pwr	330	29	33	39½	0	4½	6½
(*359)	360	2	12½	21	2½	16½	18½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 67315	Mar 96	3585.0	3594.0	3558.0	3584.0	14048
	Jun 96				3585.0	0
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3315	Mar 96				3960.0	0
	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 402474	Dec 95	93.45	93.46	93.44	93.45	5360
	Mar 96	93.78	93.80	93.76	93.79	11057
	Jun 96	93.95	93.96	93.92	93.94	7858
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.59	0
	Jun 96					0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 917515	Mar 96	96.35	96.39	96.33	96.38	22596
	Jun 96	96.41	96.48	96.38	96.47	19960
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 148211	Dec 95	110-21	110-24	109-28	110-06	6794
	Mar 96	110-04	110-12	109-09	109-25	51633
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	121.30	121.40	121.24	121.28	2720
	Jun 96	119.85	119.85	119.85	119.83	50
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 214452	Mar 96	98.48	98.75	98.14	98.55	143653
	Jun 96	97.84	97.98	97.60	97.88	275
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 16395	Mar 96	94.90	94.95	94.88	94.91	691
	Jun 96	95.00	95.00	94.99	94.98	60
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 41095	Mar 96	98.21	98.25	98.17	98.23	4421
	Jun 96	98.24	98.28	98.18	98.27	1053
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 49653	Mar 96	105.70	106.28	105.55	105.89	30766
	Jun 96				105.49	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¾ Low 6½ Week fixed: [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth [illegible] . Sell: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth: [illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6¾, close 6½ .

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.79	n/a	5.68	5.55	5.50
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	5¼-5	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $388.20-388.50 Close: $387.75-388.25 High: $388.30-388.50
Low: $387.40-387.90 AM: $388.00 PM: $388.10

Krugerrand: $387.75-389.75 (£250.50-252.50)

Platinum: $410.00 (£265.55) **Silver:** $5.17 (£3.345) **Palladium:** $132.50 (£85.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4666-2.4867	2.4835-2.4867	⅝-½pr	1¾-1½pr
Brussels	45.27-45.65	45.55-45.65	12-9pr	33-27pr
Copenhagen	8.5300-8.6090	8.5870-8.6090	1¼-¾pr	3¼-2¾pr
Dublin	0.9645-0.9696	0.9668-0.9693	9-6pr	24-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2020-2.2200	2.2161-2.2192	½-⅜pr	1¾-1⅝pr
Lisbon	231.09-233.37	232.51-233.14	32-59ds	111-155ds
Madrid	187.66-188.93	188.38-188.67	42-52ds	127-144ds
Milan	2453.9-2465.9	2461.9-2465.9	8-10ds	24-26ds
Montreal	2.1189-2.1284	2.1217-2.1248	0.13-0.05pr	0.25-0.14pr
New York	1.5384-1.5440	1.5420-1.5430	0.09-0.07pr	0.28-0.25pr
Oslo	9.7460-9.8140	9.7960-9.8110	1-¾pr	2¾-2¼pr
Paris	7.5830-7.6460	7.6220-7.6350	⅝-⅜pr	2-1½pr
Stockholm	10.166-10.232	10.209-10.232	⅛-⅜ds	¼-⅝ds
Tokyo	156.22-157.31	156.96-157.22	1-¾pr	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	15.493-15.618	15.591-15.618	⅝-¼pr	1-¾pr
Zurich	1.7736-1.7824	1.7779-1.7807	½-⅜pr	2-1½pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3493-1.3502
Austria	10.10-10.11
Belgium (Com)	29.52-29.53
Canada	1.3775-1.3780
Denmark	5.5675-5.5705
France	4.9445-4.9450
Germany	1.4369-1.4374
Hong Kong	7.7342-7.7352
Ireland	1.5945-1.5965
Italy	1595.50-1596.00
Japan	101.80-101.85
Malaysia	2.5425-2.5435
Netherlands	1.6086-1.6096
Norway	6.3483-6.3558
Portugal	150.76-150.93
Singapore	1.4135-1.4145
Spain	122.18-122.23
Sweden	6.6164-6.6239
Switzerland	1.1535-1.1545

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5437-1.5463
Australia dollar	2.0809-2.0837
Bahrain dinar	0.5740-0.5860
Brazil real*	1.4978-1.5026
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6980-0.7080
Finland markka	6.5900-6.7060
Greece drachma	361.25-368.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.9323-11.9416
India rupee	53.37-54.33
Indonesia rupiah	3487.00-3555.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4555-0.4655
Malaysia ringgit	3.9226-3.9267
New Zealand dollar	2.3644-2.3670
Pakistan rupee	52.73 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5425-5.6605
Singapore dollar	2.1810-2.1833
S Africa rand (com)	5.5930-5.6950
U A E dirham	5.5900-5.7140

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	787	Legal & Gn	1,700
ASDA Gp	4,600	Lloyds Bk	4,500
Abbey Ntl	5,300	Marks Spr	5,700
Allied Dom	3,000	NatWst Bk	7,000
Argos	523	Nat Grid	51,000
Argyll Gp	3,600	Nat Power	120,000
AB Foods	3,800	NW Water	940
BAA	2,100	P & O	1,900
BAT Inds	5,500	Pearson	1,600
BOC	713	Pilkington	6,900
BP	4,400	PowerGen	3,500
BSkyB	1,900	Prudential	3,200
BTR	10,000	REXAM	4,000
BT	7,600	RMC	859
Bk of Scot	1,700	RTZ	2,200
Barclays	3,900	Rank Org	2,500
Bass	1,500	Reckitt Col	2,200
Blue Circle	2,400	Redland	1,700
Boots	858	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	2,000	Rentokil	1,100
BA	2,300	Reuters	3,500
Brit Gas	20,000	Rolls Royce	4,200
Brit Steel	6,400	Royal Ins	1,400
Burmah Cstl	1,600	Ryl Bk Scot	2,300
Burton	9,300	Sainsbury	3,800
Cable Wire	4,500	Schroders	59
Cadbury	5,400	Scot & New	2,500
Carlton Cms	1,800	Scot Power	2,100
Cm Union	1,100	Svrn Trent	367
Cookson	2,200	Shell Trans	7,400
Courtaulds	2,000	Siebe	1,500
Enterpr Oil	1,100	SmKl Bch	4,200
For & Col IT	1,300	Smith Nph	4,500
Forte	2,400	Smiths Inds	919
GKN	610	Sthern Elec	475
GRE	1,800	Std Chartd	2,700
GUS	3,900	Sun Allnce	1,900
Gen Acc	1,000	TI Gp	1,500
Gen Elec	6,700	TSB	16,000
Glaxo Well	5,800	Tate & Lyle	1,100
Granada	923	Tesco	6,900
Grand Met	3,400	Thames W	1,300
Guinness	2,300	Thrn EMI	2,600
HSBC	5,500	Tomkins	2,300
Hanson	21,000	Unilever	2,300
ICI	2,800	Vodafone	9,800
Kingfisher	3,100	Whitbread	1,700
LASMO	847	Wlms Hld	1,700
Ladbroke	3,500	Wolseley	4,800
Land Secs	1,200	Zeneca	1,800

WALL STREET

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
AMP Inc	38¼	37¾
AMR Corp	73¾	73¾
AT & T	66	65¾
Abbott Labs	41¼	41¼
Advanced Micro	17¼	17
Aetna Life	70¾	70¾
Ahmanson (HF)	26	26¼
Air Prod & Chem	53	53½
AirTouch Comm	27	27¼
Alberto-Culver B	35¾	36
Albertson's	33¼	33¼
Alcan Aluminm	31¼	31
Alco Standard	45¾	45¾
Allied Signal	47	47¾
Alum Co of Am	54½	53½
Amax Gold Inc	7⅛	7⅛
Amerada Hess	50¾	49¾
Amer Brands	44¼	44¼
Amer El Power	40¼	39¾
Amer Express	41¾	41
Amer Genl Corp	33¾	33¾
Amer Home Pr	96¾	97¾
Amer Intl	92½	93¼
Amer Stores	26¾	26¼
Amer Standard	29¼	30¾
Ameritech	58¾	58¾
Amoco	69¾	69½
Anheuser-Busch	66¼	66¾
Apple Computer	33¾	32¼
Archer Daniels	17¾	17¾
Armco	5¾	5¾
Armstrng Wrld	62¾	62¾
Asarco	30¾	31
Ashland Oil	35¾	35¼
Atl Richfield	109	108¾
Auto Data Pro	71¾	72¼
Avery Dennison	47¾	48
Avon Products	76¼	76¾
Baker Hughes	23½	24¼
Baltim Gas & El	27¼	27¾
Banc One	37¾	37¼
BankAmerica	63¾	63
Bank of NY	47¼	47¼
Bankers Tr NY	66¾	67
Barnett Banks	58¼	58¾
Bausch & Lomb	39¾	39¾
Baxter Intl	40¼	41
Bectn Dicknsn	72¾	73¼
Bell Atlantic	67¼	66¾
Bell Industries	22	21¼
BellSouth	42¼	42¾
Black & Decker	34¼	34¼
Block (H&R)	41¾	41
Boeing	75	72¾
Boise Cascade	32¼	31¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	84¾	85¾
Browning Ferris	28½	29
Brunswick	21¾	21½
Burlington Nthn	74¾	75¾
CNA Financial	114	114¾
CPC Intl	71¼	71¼
CSX	87	86¼
Campbell Soup	59¾	60¼
Can Pacific	17¼	17¼
Cptl Cities ABC	123	123½
Carolina Pwr	33¾	34
Caterpillar	58½	57¼
Central & SW	27¼	27¼
Champion Intl	39½	40¾
Chase Manhat	59¾	58¾
Chemical Bk	57¼	57¼
Chevron Corp	51¼	50¾
Chrysler	53¼	53¼
Chubb Corp	97½	98¼
Cigna Corp	104¼	106¾
Citicorp	66	65
Clorox	75¼	75
Coastal Corp	36¾	36¾
Coca Cola	77¼	77¼
Colgate-Palmolive	72¾	73¼
Columbia Gas	43½	43½
ColumbiaHCA	51¼	51
Compaq Comp	47¼	45¾
Comp Ass Int	57¾	56¼
Conagra	40¼	40¼
Conrail	68¼	68¼
Cons Edison	31	30¾
Cons Nat Gas	44¼	44¼
Cooper Inds	34¾	35¼
CoreStates	37¾	37¾
Corning Inc	30¾	30¼
Crown Cork	40	40
Dana Corp	30¾	29¾
Dayton Hudson	74¼	74¼
Deere	33¾	33¼
Delta Air Lines	75	75¼
Deluxe Corp	27¼	27
Detroit Edison	34¼	34¼
Digital Equip	59½	57¾
Dillard Dept St	27¾	28¾
Disney (Walt)	59¾	59¾
Dominion Res	41¼	41¼
Donnelley (RR)	37	37¼
Dover Corp	36½	35½
Dow Chemical	69¾	69¼
Dow Jones	39¾	39½
Dresser	24	23¼
Duke Power	47¼	46¼
Dun & Bradstreet	64¾	63¼
Du Pont	67¼	68½

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
Eastman Kodak	65¾	66¾
Eaton Corp	54¼	54
Emerson Elec	77¾	78¾
Engelhard Corp	21¾	21¼
Enron Corp	38¼	38¼
Entergy	28¾	28¾
Ethyl Corp	12¾	12¾
Exxon	81	80¾
FMC Corp	70½	71
FPL Group	45¼	45¾
Federal Express	72¾	72
Fed Nat Mtge	111¼	110¾
First Interstate	136¼	135
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	39¼	39
Fluor Corp	64¾	65¾
Ford Motor	28¾	28¾
GTE Corp	43¾	43¾
Gannett	59¾	59¾
Gap Inc Del	42¼	45¼
Gen Dynamics	60¾	62¼
Gen Electric	71¼	72¾
Gen Mills	58¾	57¼
Gen Motors	50¾	50½
Gen Reinsurance	154¼	154¾
Gen Signal	31¼	31¾
Genuine Parts	40¾	40¼
Georgia Pac	66¼	66¾
Gillette	52¾	52¼
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27	27¾
Goodrich (BF)	67	66¾
Goodyear Tire	44¾	44¼
Grace (W&R)	58¼	57¾
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23¼	22¼
Great Wstn Fin	25¾	25¾
Halliburton	47¼	47¼
Harcourt General	40¾	41¾
Heinz (HJ)	33¼	33¼
Hercules	56¾	56¼
Hershey Foods	65	66¼
Hewlett Packard	80¾	77¾
Hilton Hotels	61¼	60¼
Home Depot	45	45¾
Homestake Mng	15¾	16
Honeywell	45¾	45
Household Intl	57¾	56¼
Houston Inds	24¼	24¼
Humana	25¼	26½
ITT Corp	117¾	118¾
Illinois Tool	58¾	58¾
Illinova	29¾	29¾
INCO	34¾	35¾
Ingersoll Rand	34¼	34¾
Inland Steel	24¾	25¾
Intel Corp	59¾	57¼
IBM	90¾	89
Intl Flav & Fr	50¾	50¾
Intl Paper	36¼	38¼
James River Va	23	25¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	88¾	89¼
Kellogg	78¾	78¾
Kerr-McGee	59¼	59¾
Kimberly-Clark	76	76
Kmart	6	6
Knight-Ridder	63½	63¾
Lilly (Eli)	105½	105¾
Limited Inc	17¼	17¼
Lincoln Nat	51¼	51¼
Litton	42¼	42¾
Liz Claiborne	28¾	29¾
Lockheed Martin	75¾	77½
Louisiana Pac	23¾	23¼
MCI Comm	26⅞	26¼
Marriott Intl	37¼	36¾
Marsh & McLan	88½	88¾
Masco Corp	29¾	29¼
May Dept St	43¼	44¼
Maytag Corp	19¾	20¼
McDonalds	44¾	45¾
McDonnell D	87½	90
McGraw Hill	86	85
Mead Corp	50¾	51
Medtronic	56½	57¾
Mellon Bk	52¼	52
Melville Corp	28¾	30¼
Merck Inc	64¾	64¼
Merrill Lynch	50¾	50¾
Microsoft	88¾	87
Minnesota Mine	68	67¼
Mobil Corp	108¼	108¾
Monsanto	115¾	115
Morgan (JP)	80¼	79¼
Motorola Inc	57¾	56¾
Natl Semi	22¾	22¾
Natl Service Ind	32¾	32¾
Navistar Int	10¾	10¾
NY Times A	29¼	29¾
Newmont Mng	43¼	43¼
Niag Mohawk	9¼	9¼
Nike B	64	61½
NL Industries	12¾	12¾
Noram Energy	8¾	8¾
Nordstrom	40¾	40¾
Norfolk Sthrn	77	77¾
Nthn State Pwr	48¾	48¾
Norwest Corp	33½	33¼
Nynex Corp	50¾	49¾
Occidental Pet	20¾	20¾
Ohio Edison	23¾	23
Oracle	42¾	41¼

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
Oryx Energy Co	13¼	13
Owens Corning	44¼	43¾
PPG Industries	44¼	44¾
PNC Bank	28½	28¾
PP&L Res	24¾	24¼
Paccar Inc	47¼	46
Pacificorp	20¾	20¾
Pac Enterprises	27¼	28
Pac Gas & Elect	28¾	28¾
Pac Telesis	33½	33¼
Pall Corp	25¾	25¾
Panhandle East	27¼	28¾
Parker Hannifin	33¾	33¼
Peco Energy	29¾	29½
Penney (JC)	46¼	46¾
Pennzoil	41¾	41¾
Pepsico	56¼	56¾
Pfizer	63¾	64¼
Pharm & Upjhn	38¼	38¾
Phelps Dodge	61¼	61¼
Philip Morris	90¾	91¼
Phillips Pet	33¼	33
Pitney Bowes	47½	46¼
Polaroid	48¾	49
PriceCostco	15¾	16¼
Procter & Gmbl	84	83¾
Providian	41¾	41¼
Pub Serv E & G	30¾	29¾
Quaker Oats	35¾	35¾
Ralston Purina	64¾	64¼
Raychem Corp	56¾	57¼
Raytheon	45¾	45¼
Reebok Intl	25¾	25¾
Reynolds Metals	55¼	55
Roadway Srvs	50¾	50¾
Rockwell Intl	51¼	50¼
Rohm & Haas	61¾	62½
Royal Dutch	136	136
Rubbermaid	25	25¾
SBC Comms	56¾	57
Safeco Corp	36¼	35¾
St Paul's Cos	56	57¾
Salomon Inc	34¾	34¾
Sara Lee Corp	32¼	33¼
Scecorp	16¾	16¾
Schering Plough	55¼	56¾
Schlumberger	68¼	67¾
Seagram	34¾	34¾
Sears Roebuck	39¾	38¾
Shell Trans	78¾	78¾
Sherwin Wlms	39¼	39
Skyline Corp	19¾	19¾
Snap-On-Tools	45¾	44¼
Southern Co	24¾	24¾
Sprint Corp	40¾	39¾
Stanley Works	50¾	50¾
Sun Company	26¾	26¾
Sun Microsys	44¾	41¾
Suntrust	67¼	67¾
Supervalu	32	32¼
Sysco Corp	31¼	31¼
TRW Inc	75¾	75
TCC Inds	2¾	2¾
Tandem Comp	11¼	11¼
Tandy Corp	38¾	37¾
Teledyne	24½	24¼
Temple Inland	43¾	44¾
Tenneco	47¼	47¾
Texaco	76¾	76¾
Texas Inst	48	49½
Texas Utilities	40¼	39¾
Textron	71¼	72¾
Time Warner	37¼	36¾
Times-Mirror A	33¾	34¼
Timken	38¾	38
Torchmark	43¾	44
Toys R Us	22¾	23¼
Transamerica	75¾	74¾
Travelers	58¾	58¾
Tribune	61	61
Tyco Labs	32	31¾
UST Inc	36	34¾
UAL	196½	197¾
US Inds	16¾	16¾
USX Marathon	19¾	19
Unicom	33	32¾
Unilever NV	141¼	141¾
Union Camp	49¾	46
Union Carbide	37½	37¾
Union Pacific	65¾	65¾
Unisys Corp	6	5¾
USAIR Group	12¾	12
USF&G Corp	17	17¾
US Life	28	28¾
United Tech	92¾	91¼
Unocal Corp	28¾	28¾
VF Corp	52¾	52¾
WMX Tech	28¾	28¾
Wal-Mart Stores	22¾	22¾
Warner-Lambert	91¼	92¾
Wells Fargo	214¾	212¾
Westinghouse El	15¾	15¾
Weyerhaeuser	42¾	41¾
Whirlpool	52¾	54¾
Whitman	23¼	23¾
Winn Dixie	36¾	36¾
Woolworth	13¾	13¾
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	52¾	53¾
Xerox	138¾	138¾
Yellow Corp	12¾	12¾

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mince pies on the line

THE Docklands Light Railway has not made its name by spreading good cheer. But yesterday, the railway, which serves Canary Wharf and London's Docklands, managed to bring a Christmas smile to commuter— by serving up mince pies to rush-hour passengers. The festive gesture, at Bank station, was appreciated, and the ticket checker was later greeted with some warmth rather than the usual grudging response.

FURTHER in our series about Christmas cards comes one from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales that bears the message "Beware of False Profits".

Out of view

MEANWHILE, recipients of Railtrack's Christmas card may wonder just what message the company is trying to send out. Railtrack's card sports a photograph, captioned Misty Blue, taken by John Bracken, a signalman. The scene depicts "the view, from Wye Signal box near Ashford, Kent" — and shows no trains, fog overhead, or snow on the line.

Guidelines

FIRST-TIME visitors to Singapore, where Nick Leeson is currently in residence, should take heed of advice handed out to tourists on arrival. "Fines are imposed for littering, smoking in prohibited places, not flushing the toilet, road hogging, urinating in lifts, selling chewing gum."

BTR SELLS DUNLOP AND SLAZENGER

"Tennis, anybody?"

Heads or tails

JOHN RITBLAT, the art-loving chairman, secures my vote for brightening up British Land's interim report, out yesterday, with a front and back cover picture of works by George Stubbs. Ritblat chose foxhounds, and, reflecting British Land's half-time results, has appended the caption "Heads down tails up at the interim stage". Whatever can be in store for year-end results?

Pat on back?

ABN Amro Hoare Govett is really asking for it. The firm's smaller companies team has sent clients a festive quiz, and answers to the clues are the names of the companies the firm researches. The tie-breaker is not more than 12 words to the statement: ABN Amro Hoare Govett is my favourite broker because... City Diary is promised sight of printable client responses by Friday.

Free market

CITY workers and shoppers desperately searching for a taxi in the miserable weather must envy the entrepreneurial spirit discovered by Patrick Davis, chief executive of the Food from Britain campaign. He has just returned from Moscow, where he headed a delegation of British food manufacturers. One night when he stepped out of his hotel to hail a taxi half the street stopped. "Not one of them was a licensed taxi. They were all private cars anxious to make a rapid rouble — and ready to negotiate," says Patrick.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Can South Africa match the 'tigers' of South-East Asia?

Foreign investors are waking up to the possibilities, but remain cautious, says **Joanna Pitman**

One of the last wild frontiers. That is how an American investment banker described the African Continent as a punt for those interested in the rawest kind of high-risk, high-return investment. If you consider that South-East Asia, Latin America, India and China have been "emerging" for some time now, that does indeed leave only Russia and Africa as the last frontier investments.

However, South Africa, classified as part of the African emerging market, stands out as something of an anomaly. Economically, it is an unusual hybrid of first and third worlds. It has a sophisticated infrastructure and highly developed business and financial services sectors at one extreme and mass poverty at the other.

Eighteen months on since the elections that replaced the white oligarchy with black majority rule, South Africa is still in transition — politically, socially and economically. This is not unexpected, but it does militate against a sudden flood of confident inward investment. South Africa can offer the potential of sustainable above-average growth and the potential for high net returns. But there is also great uncertainty about that potential being realised. Since the lifting of sanctions, foreign investors have been waking up to the possibilities, encouraged by the abolition of foreign-exchange controls, but in most sectors, they have been cautious, waiting for firm indicators of stability and growth.

The basic economic indicators are mixed. Compared with mature industrial economies, South Africa's growth rate has been respectable since its recovery in 1992 from its worst recession. GDP growth has hovered around 3 per cent for the past three years and is on track for a further 3 per cent growth this year. However, when the country's rapid population growth is taken into account, per capita income growth falls short of that of mature economies. Unemployment runs at 45 per cent, the budget deficit stands at 5.8 per cent of GDP, and inflation is running at 9 per cent.

However, looking more closely at the corporate sector, where much of the growth potential lies, South Africa is well served with large companies with multinational ambitions, over 50 of which have market capitalisations of more than $1 billion and between them account for 20 per cent of all large companies in emerging markets worldwide. There are also 26 foreign firms employing staffs of more than 1,000. Lonrho is the largest with 23,000, followed by Volkswagen, which employs 8,000.

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange is strong and has been building liquidity since its own "big bang" on November 8. This, like London's, allowed corporate entities and foreign firms to become members, enabled brokers and market-makers to operate together, and abolished fixed commissions. The open cry system is scheduled to change over to screens next March. The big bang prompted a flood of foreign investment interest and a spate of tie-ups with South African brokers by European brokers including James Capel, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, SG Warburg and Smith New Court, now owned by Merrill Lynch. At least ten of the foreign brokers have set up Africa funds such as Morgan Stanley's $230 million fund listed in New York.

Johannesburg's stock exchange is ranked tenth in the world in market capitalisation and liquidity levels since big bang have reached 8-10 per cent with a daily turnover of up to 500 million rand. Business confidence is good, the country has a reasonable skills base, a sophisticated banking sector, a broad natural resource base, efficient transport and communications, low-cost energy and labour and the potential emergence of a burgeoning black consumer market. The domestic market numbers 39 million and is growing fast. If there were ten-nation Southern African Common Market today, it would have a population of 125 million. And with the South African Government's ongoing reconstruction and development programme, spending power and demand for goods should increase quickly. It is this last factor that has prompted the World Bank to state that South Africa has the potential to match the South-East Asian 'tigers' in economic growth.

"Of course, it takes time for perceptions to change. South African companies are being forced to become more competitive, more international. There are a lot of potential opportunities here" says John Morris, head of research at Smith Borkum, formerly Davis Borkum Hair and now owned by Merrill Lynch. But there are many socio-economic issues that could hold back the realisation of all this potential. Unemployment runs at levels far higher than 45 per cent in the black and coloured townships, there is a severe lack of skills among the dispossessed masses, and crime and violence figures make grim reading. While political violence has largely abated, street crime driven by drug gangs is virtually endemic in large cities. In the Gauteng region, the industrial and mining heartland with a population of ten million, for example, there were 2,493 murders and 22,038 robberies reported in the first six months of this year. The police are overstretched, underpaid and possibly inadequately trained.

Politically, the country is still riding on the euphoria of its peaceful democratic elections, but the coalition between President Mandela and FW de Klerk, Second Deputy President, is undermined by such a degree of uncertainty that flashpoints, for example the publication next May of a new constitution, could prompt realignments. Investors naturally question the outcome of a post-Mandela political transition, anxious that the coalition relies too heavily on his personal reputation of integrity; but local political analysts point out that there is no shortage of credible candidates to replace him, including Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, who has won respect at home and abroad.

And the economy appears to be in surprisingly good hands. Given that not long ago the ANC was theoretically in favour of a command economy, the new Government has surprised many with its fiscal prudence. Schooled in the IMF approach to macroeconomics, the ANC has with its first two budgets, established its economic governing credentials displaying tight fiscal and monetary policies.

Desmond Blumenfeld, professor of economics at Brunel University, said: "The Government has done little or nothing to damage its credentials. It's been a remarkable performance. They've been very pragmatic in saying they can only invest what they can afford." But if the Goverment has an acceptable idea economically of what to do, the question remains whether it can implement its ideas effectively while maintaining its fragile stability.

This is what appears to be holding back new large-scale direct investors. None is rushing in, but American firms that disinvested in the 1980s are coming back, particularly since the US Government is officially encouraging investment in South Africa as one of its top ten emerging markets. One American banker said: "A lot of the new investment is by firms which sold out in the late 1980s. They know the business."

PepsiCo for example, has bought back into the market and now has a 50-50 venture with a local food company. Since the early 1990s, European firms including Alcatel, of France, and Vodafone, of the UK, have either reinvested or put in fresh investment. BMW, which remained in the sanctions era, has also increased its investment.

Asian investors are being courted actively. South Korea has begun to invest in electronic assembly plants and Malaysia in property ventures. Taiwan, one of the few countries to maintain full diplomatic and commercial ties during the sanctions era, is also seen as a major potential investor. A state-owned Chinese company announced a $70 million investment in a chrome mine last week, but such direct investments creating new capacity and new jobs are still few and far between.

President Mandela at the now stronger Johannesburg Stock Exchange

ANTHONY HARRIS

Stage is set for panto season in Euroland

The Spirit of Christmas seems to have appeared a day or two early in Madrid. Special preview! Helmut and his Emu in "Mother Goose"! Secret numbers! Magic illusions! See Judo Jack Chirac escape by yielding! See the wicked Major (hiss) smothered in foam!

And do you believe it, children? ... oh, come now. It won't happen if you don't believe it. And look at lovely cuddly Uncle Helmut. He believes it. So let's try again. First, on the left: do you believe it? There, that's better. And now on the right. What? You still don't? Just wait while we tell you again. So, what's going to happen in 1999? What, nothing? Look what you've done to poor Uncle. He's crying. But it will be all right on the night. Oh yes it will!

For the grown-ups, there remains a serious question: *just who are they trying to fool?* One can see that enthusiasts for EMU may want to stick to the 1999 deadline for as long as it is at all plausible: it fills the role that the IMF used to play, as the scapegoat for necessary but unpopular policies. But if the Germans are to be believed when they protest that EMU without France is unthinkable, then plausibility vanishes.

The unhappy M Juppé put forward an "essential" programme of reforms. The trade unions challenged it, and they won (oh yes they did!).

It may still be possible, with the aid of the Bundesbank and a good trade performance, to defend the franc fort (but watch for the effect of nuclear test indignation on French exports). But the strikes will leave French revenue somewhat lower, and the resulting concessions will make spending sharply higher.

Although four years is getting on for half a world trade cycle, the chances of France meeting the fiscal demand of Maastricht by 1999 now depend on massive tax increases, which would be economically ill-timed and politically near-impossible.

So we are back where the curtain rose. Why the pantomime? One popular explanation is that the Europeans are simply waiting for Tony Blair. A change in the Maastricht timetable would require an amendment to the treaty itself; but amendment is an open-ended process. With the British in their present mood, it could lead to endless difficulties. So let's go on pretending. When the British have elected a more self-confident and Euro-friendly government, they might join in tackling the difficulties in "a spirit of constructive engagement". In short, delay is inevitable, *but not yet.*

This could explain the pretence; but it does not explain either the air of near-desperation in the Franco-German drive for EMU, nor the string of German proposals for ever-higher hurdles to be cleared by new entrants: still less of the simultaneous German drive for enlargement, which can only increase the number of countries which would not qualify for years to come.

Indeed, the whole German programme appears to be self-contradictory, so a second explanation is that there is no coherent German programme at all. The Chancellor is more a juggler who hopes that at least one of his balls will stay up.

Conspiracy theorists may prefer the secret agenda offered this week by Stephen Lewis, of London Bill Broking. He suggests that the Germans may already have given up on the French and are stealthily preparing a smaller, stronger D-mark bloc.

The German markets would love this, but the French would undoubtedly see it as a threat: so the aim of the pantomime is to fool President Chirac, lest he should change hats and oppose the whole project.

A nasty, persuasive thesis, though Lewis admits that it has yet to be tested politically. For myself, I would not dream of supporting such a sinister suggestion in this season of goodwill. But there is not much time before 1996 to think of a better one. Meanwhile, let us all think about something quite different.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's external members entitled to expect their interests to be defended

From Mr M. Deeny, Chairman, Litigating Names' Committee

Sir, The recent letter from Mr Hiscox (December 15) shows a surprising lack of knowledge of the Reconstruction and Renewal proposals, for which he has some responsibility as a current member of the Council of Lloyd's.

It is not correct to state that the proposed offer is three times the amount that litigants could hope to achieve in court, since a substantial part of it will go to non-litigants and the defendants and their insurers have already reserved over a billion pounds in their own accounts to meet the litigants' claims.

Neither is it correct to suggest that the Council of Lloyd's should be like a board of directors. There are separate constituencies represented on the council with working members electing working members, such as Mr Hiscox, and external members electing external members, such as myself.

External members have suffered enormous losses in recent years and many feel that the council has failed to protect them.

The external members are entitled to expect that those they elected should defend their interests on the council.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DEENY,
Chairman,
Litigating Names' Committee,
60 Bedwin Street,
Salisbury.

From Mrs R. E. Howard-Vyse

Sir, Robert Hiscox complains that Mr Deeny is to represent only one section on the Council of Lloyd's, the external names.

Obviously, Mr Deeny has learnt well from history, for research carried out shows that the Council of Lloyd's has operated on just such a principle in the past to the detriment of external names.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY HOWARD-VYSE,
Town Farm,
Langton,
Malton,
North Yorkshire.

From Mr P. A. Latham

Sir, Mr Hiscox in his letter to you suggested that the Council of Lloyd's should be like a board of directors, united in their endeavour to bring value to all shareholders.

If previous Lloyd's councils had acted on this premise, Lloyd's might not have reached its current impasse, but as they did not, Lloyd's would, in plc terms, already be in the hands of the liquidators.

Indeed, if the rehabilitation plan is to succeed, it will largely be due to the major contribution of action group leaders, such as Mr Deeny, and not to the "old guard", who must accept much of the responsibility for the society's present dire straits.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. LATHAM,
Church Hill House,
14 Thackeray Close,
Wimbledon,
SW19.

Remove this discrimination

From Mrs Eleanor R. G. Barrott

Sir, I sympathise with your correspondent John Mendes (Business Letters, December 13) in having to suffer retrospective adjustments to effect appropriate taxation of the annuity contract on which he relies for part of his retirement income.

Were he a woman, he would find himself even further disadvantaged in that the proceeds of such arrangements are subject to an actuarial reduction, generally of the order of about 10 per cent, on account of the increased life expectancy of females. This form of discrimination is permitted because one is considered to be buying an annuity, not establishing the right to a pension.

I submit that the time is well ovedue for the Government to remove this, and any other technical difference, and to ensure that these arrangements for providing for one's retirement, which they approve and encourage, are brought into line with occupational pensions, namely by being brought into the tax code system and in being required to use common actuarial tables for determining entitlements.

Yours faithfully,
ELEANOR R. G. BARROTT,
17 Sandy Lane,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

Reform vital for system of auditor liability

From Mr Brian Currie.

Sir, The recent judgment against BDO Binder Hamlyn and the indication that accountancy practices may be considering offshore registration of their businesses to protect partners' personal assets have both received extensive press coverage in the last week or so.

Both these developments reinforce our view that there is a need to move as a matter of urgency towards the introduction of a fairer system of liability for auditors.

Our case is a simple one. It is right that auditors should be liable to the extent of their responsibility for any losses that may have been suffered. The present method of determining liability, under which auditors are held jointly and severally liable with other parties, is, however, fundamentally unfair in that auditors can end up being held financially liable, not only for their own mistakes, but also for the mistakes of others.

That is why we are seeking reform of joint and several liability and the right for auditors to be allowed under company law the normal commercial freedom to agree reasonable limits to their liability, subject to adequate safeguards for the interest of the shareholders. That is also the issue which we continue to press the Government to tackle and why we look forward with keen concern to the outcome of the current feasibility study by the Law Commission into the scope for reform.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN CURRIE,
Deputy President,
The Institute of Chartered Accountants,
Chartered Accountants' Hall,
PO Box 433,
Moorgate Place,
EC2.

Barings is losing its bearings

From Mr Richard Warden

Sir, In response to concerns about the £20 million bonuses for Barings' staff, a Barings source said: "People in corporate finance are some of the most beautiful and expensive people you will ever meet."

If there is a Yuletide prize for insensitivity and arrogance towards the customer, surely it must go to Barings. We know Barings staff are expensive, to the tune of the £860 million debt incurred through improperly supervised dealings. We know it has been expensive for Barings' customers, the bondholders who face a potential £100 million loss.

The reverse side of the coin is that ordinary people are neither beautiful, ie, ugly, nor expensive, ie, cheap. What an arrogant view. Cannot the managers of Barings understand the public image their bank has? Their primary concern should be for their customers, not promoting egocentric views that are highly distasteful.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WARDEN,
2 Waterloo Way, Bredon,
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

More fond memories

From Mrs J. P. Harborne

Sir, The Strand Palace obviously evokes many happy memories (Hidden Assets, November 25; Letters, December 12). Visiting London for the 1948 Oval Test against the Australians, my father's day was made when he bumped into his hero, Sir Jack Hobbs, in the foyer. "Le Ravier", the carvery where you could eat as much as you could for 3/6d, made more impression on me!

Yours faithfully,
JOAN HARBORNE,
1 Thirlmere Avenue,
Grimsby, South Humberside.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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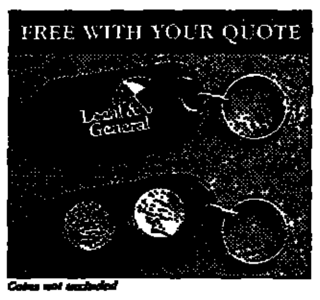

Coins not included

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Groland Amer	195.90	207.40†	- 3.00	0.20
Groland Equity	263.80	280.70	- 3.80	2.09
Groland Euro	239.50	253.50	- 2.50	1.43
Groland Extl Bal	125.80	130.30		0.81
Groland Gilt	76.93	79.31	- 0.34	5.07
Groland Japan	173.80	184.00†	- 1.40	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	606.10	644.80	- 8.00	2.68
General Inc	520.60	553.90	- 7.00	2.68
UK Growth Acc	409.00	435.20	- 5.50	2.91
UK Growth Inc	272.50	289.90	- 3.70	2.91
Higher Inc Acc	750.70	798.70	- 8.20	4.27
Higher Inc Inc	417.70	444.40	- 4.70	4.27
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	206.70	218.30	- 0.80	5.52
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.04	100.30	- 0.40	5.52
Nth America	324.30	345.10	- 9.70	
Europe	315.70	335.90	- 4.70	0.85
Brit Estatl	81.77	86.99†	- 1.13	3.07
Brit Friends Acc	110.30	117.40	- 1.00	4.80
Brit Friends Inc	77.26	82.20	- 0.66	4.80
Global Opps	93.72	99.71†	- 1.79	0.30
Balanced Acc	59.66	63.47	- 0.63	2.90
Balanced Inc	57.09	60.73	- 0.62	2.90
Japan Acc	46.50	49.47	- 0.61	
Pac Basin Acc	378.10	402.30	- 2.10	1.04
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.10	140.20†	- 0.40	7.13
High Inc Equity	172.80	184.00	- 1.80	4.28
Worldwide Bond	292.90	310.60†	- 0.20	4.51
American Growth	329.60	352.10	- 6.30	0.37
Asian Pacific	371.20	392.80	- 2.10	
Assets & Earnings	280.70	298.60†	- 3.60	2.91
Euro Capital Acc	157.30	168.40	- 2.10	0.61
Extra Inc	43.79	46.58	- 0.38	8.63
General	257.10	273.50	- 3.30	3.05
Global Opps	58.30	62.02	- 0.65	0.48
Japan	123.50	132.10	- 0.90	.
Managed Inc	46.75	49.73	- 0.37	4.68
Mastertrust	150.80	161.30	- 1.80	1.46
US Emerging Cos	169.90	180.70	- 5.70	...
Ethical	74.09	78.82	- 0.50	2.49
International	125.40	133.40	- 1.50	0.61
Dividend & Growth	64.75	68.88	- 0.67	4.08
Global Gwth & Sec	70.75	75.57	- 0.08	2.67
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1967.00	2040.00	.	..
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	53.95	56.04	- 1.12	0.55
Cash	50.12	50.12†		5.83
Emerging Mkts	63.57	67.37	- 0.55	0.05
European	124.50	129.50	- 2.30	
Exempt	996.60	1067.30	-14.30	1.74
Extra Income #	47.55	50.97†	- 0.37	6.67
Far East Emg Ecn	118.50	124.40	- 0.60	0.50
Fixed Interest #	23.61	24.55†	- 0.08	9.57
Fund Inv Tst	163.60	171.80	- 1.60	9.06
Japan	185.10	192.50	- 1.60	
Latin American	46.87	49.13	- 0.44	0.99
Pacific	79.85	83.84	- 0.47	0.31
Property Share	62.34	65.44	- 0.10	2.68
UK Emerging Cos	68.20	72.66	- 0.82	1.70
UK Growth	48.18	50.98	- 0.57	2.30
Aber World Port #	76.75	78.24†	- 0.63	2.09
Ethical	71.14	73.99†	- 0.54	2.38
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.86	50.86†	- 0.05	7.38
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Resdl Property	97.41	104.50		5.10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	82.19	87.20	- 0.78	2.33
Income Builder Inc	74.29	79.03†	- 0.67	2.90
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	253.60	271.00	- 1.30	2.88
Capital	449.10	480.00	- 2.70	1.72
Balanced	738.50	789.40†	- 5.00	2.52
Accumulator	1412.00	1509.00	- 7.00	2.69
Income Trusts				
American Income	57.03	60.96	- 0.91	2.92
High Income	416.60	445.30	- 1.90	3.47
Equity Income	234.50	250.60	- 1.10	3.32
High Yield	252.30	269.70	- 1.30	3.22
Govt Securities	34.57	36.49	- 0.27	5.81
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	182.10	194.60	- 4.20	0.38
European Growth	41.74	44.52	- 0.68	0.01
International	174.50	186.50	- 2.80	0.18
Japan	202.60	216.00†	- 2.30	0.01
Pacific	394.70	421.90	- 3.00	0.01
Secs of America	516.40	550.10†	-13.90	0.42
Wwide Asset Val	51.85	55.42	- 0.70	0.22
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	561.20	599.90†	- 3.30	2.13
Conv & Gilt	44.17	47.21	- 0.15	4.91
Smaller Cos	187.80	200.70†	- 1.20	1.11
2nd Smaller Cos	177.90	190.10	- 1.20	1.28
Recovery	149.40	159.70	- 0.80	1.64
Met Min & Cdty	165.80	177.20	- 2.10	0.67
Oseas Earnings	374.20	400.00†	- 3.10	1.69
Technology	201.10	214.90†	- 5.10	0.01
UK Special Sits	515.10	550.60†	- 2.80	1.57
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pnsns	110.80	115.10		3.04
Foundtn Persl Pnsns	66.25	68.83	..	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	75.16	79.96	- 1.33	1.82
International	68.97	73.37		.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	295.60	317.80	- 4.70	
Bond	121.10	127.40	- 0.60	6.59
Brit Smlr Cos	109.60	116.80	- 1.10	1.71
Conv & Gen #	68.19	72.54	- 0.40	5.41
Europe	234.60	249.60†	- 3.90	0.63
Euro Smlr Cos	106.70	113.40†	- 1.00	0.63
Income Gwth	367.00	390.40†	- 2.90	3.91
Japan	323.40	344.60	- 2.80	
Latn American	66.69	70.95	- 1.17	
Pacific	105.00	111.70†	- 0.80	1.26
UK Smlr Cos	57.99	61.69	- 0.59	1.30
Japan Fd	673.80	695.00	- 3.40	
Mngd Fd	187.20	198.90	- 2.50	2.99
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	330.80	349.90	- 5.20	0.82
Capital Gwth	117.00	123.80	- 2.10	2.65
Wwide Opps	200.30	211.80	- 3.70	0.95
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0161 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Best Inv Fd Inc	380.40	396.20	- 3.80	2.61
European Bd Inc	96.78	100.20		6.79
Exempt	76.46	81.55	- 0.85	4.11
Financial	90.52	96.81†	- 1.61	2.50
500	465.10	502.80	- 3.30	2.65
General	293.20	313.90	- 2.90	2.59
Property	237.60	254.90†		6.47
Trustee	202.90	216.40†	- 2.40	2.32
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.00	101.00	+ 0.10	5.85
Extra Income #	125.70	134.50	- 1.20	4.99
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.06	61.15†	- 0.16	8.13
Income	557.90	596.70	- 5.70	3.84
Income Builder #	66.06	70.84	- 0.33	5.54
Intl Income	66.53	70.78†	- 0.69	3.27
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	129.90	138.80	- 1.50	2.26
Leisure	148.80	159.20	- 1.40	1.11
Recovery	438.20	468.70	- 2.30	2.83
Smlr Cos Inc	48.16	51.65	- 0.24	2.75
Special Sits	334.70	357.90	- 3.70	1.53
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	157.50	167.30†	- 2.70	0.30
Aust Acc	265.40	283.90	- 2.90	1.89
Aust Inc	160.00	171.20†	- 1.80	1.89
Euro Gwth Inc	164.10	174.30	- 1.80	0.75
-do- Accum	177.20	188.20	- 2.00	0.75
Japan & Gen Inc	162.30	171.80	- 1.00	
-do- Accum	164.10	173.80	- 1.00	
Japan Spec Sits	74.35	78.76	- 0.45	.
Univ Tech Inc	88.22	93.86	- 1.12	
Worldwide	183.70	195.00	- 2.20	0.63
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	112.00	118.50	- 2.60	.
Amer Smlr Cos	142.00	152.10	- 7.10	.
Convertibles	53.99	57.89†	- 0.24	5.40
Eastern	278.30	301.50	- 1.50	0.30
Equity Income	87.73	93.81	- 1.15	3.80
European Growth	321.90	341.90	- 6.30	0.80
Europe	266.00	282.60†	- 4.00	0.20
German Growth	78.72	83.51	- 0.73	0.50
Global Bond	69.83	73.55	- 0.39	6.50
Global Growth	137.90	146.80†	- 2.10	
Japan Growth	203.70	216.70	- 1.80	.
Japan Sunrise	157.80	167.90	- 0.90	
Korea Trust	73.78	80.49	+ 2.00	
Portfolio	136.40	145.90	- 1.60	2.30
-do- Accum	254.10	271.89	- 2.90	2.30
UK Growth	86.50	92.51	- 1.28	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	82.82	90.21	- 0.70	2.50
Select Managers	80.53	86.38	- 0.98	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	84.26	89.64	- 0.15	
Special Oppor Inc	57.46	61.13	+ 0.34	.
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 222 8020				
Balanced Growth	122.43	129.55	- 1.39	1.52
-do- Accum	140.08	148.24	- 1.60	1.52
Smaller Cos	123.61	130.81†	+ 2.70	0.81
Higher Yield #	50.88	53.84	- 0.49	4.35
American Gth Inc	83.25	88.09	- 2.26	.
European Growth	138.58	146.64	- 3.55	0.21
-do- Accum	141.31	149.53	- 3.62	0.21
Global Bond Inc #	27.72	28.73†	- 0.05	7.07
Mngd Ptflio Inc	45.95	48.60	- 0.73	1.40
-do- Accum	47.12	49.85	- 0.75	1.40
Intl Spec Opps	135.62	143.51	- 3.56	.
Pacific Gth	131.07	138.70	- 3.73	0.30
UK General #	82.57	87.37†	- 1.06	2.98
-do- Accum #	86.96	92.02	- 1.12	2.98
Japan	60.12	63.62	- 0.65	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.94	105.84†	- 0.42	8.46
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	68.01	68.68	- 0.06	6.16
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	167.30	178.00†	- 1.70	1.79
UK Growth	187.40	199.30	- 2.60	2.11
UK Income	140.10	149.00	- 1.60	4.38
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	212.80	225.60	- 3.00	1.76
-do- Income Dist	114.60	121.50†	- 1.20	4.12
-do- Accum	360.60	382.30	- 3.80	4.12
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.81	44.32	- 0.17	6.14
Growth Units	228.60	242.30	- 3.00	2.07
Bond	178.70	188.20	- 0.70	6.16
Intl Growth	229.20	243.80	- 3.50	0.22
North American	229.50	244.30	- 4.90	0.26
Far East	287.50	307.50	- 2.10	1.07
UK Smaller Cos	194.80	208.30	- 1.60	1.41
European	86.71	92.29	- 1.34	0.65
Japanese Growth	47.79	50.76	- 0.61	..
High Income	201.30	215.30	- 2.00	4.00
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	187.00	199.00	...	...
European Inc	86.29	91.33		1.02
Smaller Cos (4-1)	91.80	97.87	.	1.45
Growth	480.50	511.20		1.74
Income & Growth #	434.20	462.00		3.92
-do- Accum #	632.40	672.60		3.92
Japan & Gen	70.42	74.75		
Master Portfolio	£110.34	£114.00		2.17
-do- Accum	£133.81	£138.25		2.17
Special Sits	112.00	119.20	.	1.66
High Yield	£13.92	£14.36†		4.45

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	93.32	99.65	- 0.92	2.54
American Portfolio	110.94	117.76†	- 0.79	0.94
European Portfolio	106.79	114.08	- 1.58	0.50
High Income	52.21	52.30	- 0.24	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	68.61	72.98	- 0.51	..
Pacific Portfolio	144.01	154.88†	- 1.41	1.43
UK Inc & Growth	86.25	92.35	- 0.88	3.03
Utility & Bond	56.76	57.40	+ 0.03	6.61
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	711.18	721.92	- 8.00	4.46
Fxd Int Sec	157.85	158.49	+ 0.36	9.02
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	721.70	732.60	- 1.26	4.35
Investment Acc	£31.78	£32.28	- 5.56	
Fixed Int Inc	130.38	130.80	+ 0.02	8.79
Fixed Int Acc	216.97	217.83	+ 0.02	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	93.65	98.78	...	3.01
Beck Bio-Tech	41.42	44.70†		..
Acorn Ethical Tst	167.77	176.17†		0.73
City Fin Assets	76.70	80.54	...	2.07
City Fin America	105.59	110.88	..	...
City Fin Intl	87.84	92.24†	.	0.89
City Fin Japan	151.61	161.02		
Friars Hse Cap	287.98	311.95	..	2.34
Friars Hse Inc	191.00	207.48†	.	4.35
Buckley Wrld Gth	139.57	147.94	.	..
Fairmont Cap Gth	143.33	150.87†		.
Fairmount Intl	156.14	163.31†	.	.
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	55.64	58.43†	.	2.45
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.16	57.46	- 0.48	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	72.63	77.27	- 2.44	.
Dragon Growth	67.17	71.83	- 0.44	0.90
Equity-High Inc	86.21	91.71†	- 0.75	4.17
-do- Accum	120.50	128.19	- 1.05	4.17
Extra Income Inc	26.98	28.43	- 0.08	7.11
Extra Income Acc	28.08	29.58	- 0.09	7.11
European Gwth	56.25	59.68	- 1.34	1.18
Evergreen	28.77	30.77	- 0.35	.
General Equity	93.18	98.86	- 1.34	2.99
Japan Growth	51.58	54.87	- 0.57	
Pedigree Gwth	56.38	59.98	- 0.79	2.88
Ped Sm Cos Inc	33.23	35.32	- 0.24	1.60
-do- Accum	34.98	37.19	- 0.25	1.60
Retirement Inc #	26.36	28.04	- 0.27	5.98
Special Sits	41.63	44.29	- 0.60	2.24
UK & Overseas	53.45	56.71	- 0.80	0.79
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Capital	73.95	77.03	- 1.08	1.97
Balanced	64.61	67.30	- 0.56	4.16
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	169.34	180.15	- 1.40	4.86
Fixed & Convertible	40.97	43.59	- 0.26	6.67
Monthly Inc Plus	50.10	53.30	- 0.32	8.41
Preference Share	47.15	50.16	- 0.11	7.77
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	131.85	140.27	+ 1.48	5.79
Managed Fund	72.34	76.96	- 0.78	3.06
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	42.92	45.66	- 0.57	1.78
-do- Accum	49.96	53.15	- 0.67	1.78
UK & General	88.73	92.27	- 1.19	2.77
-do- Accum	111.31	118.41	- 1.54	2.77
UK Growth	165.20	175.74	- 2.34	2.30
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	199.49	212.22	- 1.81	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	130.74	139.09	- 1.24	
Global Bond	84.49	89.80	- 0.42	5.89
Japan Growth	117.20	124.68	- 1.68	.
North Amer Gth	205.34	218.45	- 5.53	
Oriental Growth	78.61	83.63	- 0.65	0.06
Worldwide Growth	70.74	75.26	- 1.21	0.11
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.40	92.40	+ 0.01	6.12
Homeowner Fund	86.03	91.52	- 1.27	1.65
Quilter Fund	141.58	150.62	- 2.15	2.02
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	33.34	35.68	.	3.34
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	165.70	176.30†	- 2.10	1.63
Income	69.72	74.17	- 0.98	5.90
European	64.62	68.74	- 1.05	0.85
Recovery	164.90	175.40	- 1.40	2.11
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	912.30	925.50†		3.50
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	92.65	98.56	- 0.69	1.52
Income #	261.60	278.20	- 3.00	4.30
-do- Accum #	670.60	713.40	- 7.70	4.30
Smaller Cos	197.20	209.70	- 1.90	0.99
-do- Accum	243.80	259.30	- 2.30	0.99
Inv Portfolio	89.28	94.97	- 0.96	1.58
High Inc Port #	76.38	81.25	- 0.90	4.39
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1531.10	1585.10†		
Japan Small Cos	1224.40	1249.10†		
UK Small Cos	1913.20	1993.10		..
US Small Cos	1960.60	1998.80†		
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	218.50	230.00	.	2.95
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	292.40	309.00	- 5.20	0.68
New Asia	216.70	231.18	- 1.10	0.25
Japan Growth	110.10	117.10	- 1.10	.
Jap Smllr Co	450.20	477.50	- 5.80	
Nth Amer	351.10	371.70	- 4.20	0.79
UK Inc & Gth	229.00	244.50	- 3.00	2.90
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	152.00	161.60†	- 2.10	1.68
UK High Inc Inc	161.20	171.40†	- 2.00	4.20
-do- Accum	213.50	227.10†	- 2.80	4.20
UK Pref & F I Inc	59.88	63.31†	- 0.29	4.95
Emerging Opps	91.27	97.09	- 0.88	0.97
UK Smlr Cos #	59.75	63.56	- 0.48	0.01
Extra Income Inc	49.28	52.42	- 0.24	7.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
American	152.90	162.20†	- 2.60	1.06
Convertibles #	20.92	22.23†	- 0.16	6.30
Equity Income #	131.10	139.30†	- 2.10	3.80
EuroFund	52.01	55.18	- 0.61	0.36
Financial	48.90	51.96	- 0.80	1.44
Growth & Inc #	260.10	276.40	- 4.10	2.79
High Dist #	164.80	175.10†	- 2.30	4.28
International	406.40	431.80	- 6.40	0.12
Intl Cap Inc	97.59	104.20	- 1.00	2.64
Latin American	25.47	27.08	- 0.26	
Pacific	79.68	84.66	- 1.05	.
Pref High Inc	21.79	23.15	- 0.17	7.13
Tokyo	230.10	244.30	- 3.00	
UK Smaller Cos	246.70	262.10	- 2.80	1.05
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	99.90	108.39	- 2.18	1.52
Growth Acc	244.54	261.11	+ 6.88	0.68
Income	582.82	619.67	- 1.66	5.19
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7251				
Endurance Fd	218.10	232.00	..	1.19
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	84.08	88.50	- 1.22	2.07
Ethical Tst	45.67	48.07	- 0.58	1.35
Far Eastern	300.12	315.92	- 2.71	1.67
High Income	132.34	139.31†	- 0.41	4.92
Intl Growth	123.22	129.71	- 0.93	0.45
North American	132.53	139.50	- 2.31	1.56
Pelican	126.48	133.14	- 0.75	3.37
Smaller Cos	65.87	69.34†	- 0.44	2.90
Special Sits	87.78	92.40	- 0.47	3.26
Tst of Inv Tsts	194.50	204.74	- 1.12	1.34
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	201.12	213.96	- 0.51	1.32
Smaller Cos Acc	355.92	378.64	- 0.91	1.32
Recovery	50.14	53.34†	- 0.07	1.59
Recovery Acc	51.36	54.64†	- 0.05	1.59
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	86.87	93.16	- 1.40	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	48.09	51.30	- 0.59	0.56
High Income #	40.93	43.66	- 0.17	10.49
Warrant	51.94	56.46	- 0.93	..
Zero Preference	42.37	44.95†	- 0.02	.
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	80.62	85.97	- 0.88	3.23
Family Income Tst	45.16	45.16	- 0.21	6.64
Family Trust	88.35	93.98	- 1.25	2.55
United Charities	263.00	279.70	- 2.30	5.05
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	.	6.10
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.25	28.34†	- 0.06	7.05
Intl Bond	30.40	31.53	- 0.09	5.32
Income Funds				
High Income	25.30	26.59†	- 0.18	5.42
Income Plus	118.50	126.00†	- 1.30	4.20
Amer Eq Inc	58.50	59.87	- 0.95	1.48
European Income	44.80	47.64	- 0.57	2.41
Far East Inc	66.52	70.63†	- 0.50	2.23
Global Convertible	24.23	25.76†	- 0.19	2.71
UK Div Gth	27.50	29.24	- 0.38	2.27
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	63.15	67.37	- 0.42	
American	295.30	312.90	- 6.60	.
Amer Spec Sits	158.00	168.60	- 5.10	
Japan Smaller Cos	35.76	38.15	- 0.45	.
European	193.30	205.60	- 2.70	0.68
European Opps	69.07	73.44	- 1.15	0.15
Global Priv	26.99	28.70	- 0.33	0.78
UK Growth	105.80	112.50	- 1.10	1.27
Growth & Inc	157.30	167.20	- 2.20	2.82
Intl PEP	42.02	44.68	- 0.68	1.09
Japan Spec Sits	89.70	95.52	- 0.90	..
Japan	184.50	196.30	- 1.80	
Managed Intl	314.70	334.50	- 6.20	0.45
Moneybuilder	59.24	62.99	- 0.73	..
Recovery	50.89	54.11	- 0.28	1.43
South E Asia	166.30	177.40	- 0.90	1.09
Special Sits	600.90	639.00	- 4.50	0.72
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	112.26	112.38	+ 0.01	6.10
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	142.69	145.48	..	2.02
Inc Ptflio #	87.90	89.42†	- 0.87	3.45
Cap Ptflio	150.30	152.70†	- 1.80	1.52
General Opps	133.80	135.40†		3.43
Growth Inc	33.53	34.25†	- 0.39	1.36
Private Portfolio	453.20	462.40	.	1.84
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010				
European	123.50	131.60	- 0.70	0.60
Emrg Asian	153.20	163.80	- 0.10	
High Income	21.08	22.39†	- 0.14	10.05
UK Growth	117.70	125.90	- 0.80	2.45
UK Income	105.30	112.20†	- 1.10	4.36
US Smaller Cos	368.80	393.70	- 8.60	0.39
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	76.86	80.82	- 0.73	4.21
Investment Trust	98.92	104.02	- 1.25	.
UK Smaller Cos	91.43	96.14	- 0.71	0.99

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	69.68	74.36	- 1.93	...
-do- Accum	69.68	74.36	- 1.93	.
Amer Smllr Cos	588.00	623.90	-24.40	..
-do- Accum	600.70	642.50	-24.90	
Capital Tst	336.80	358.20	- 1.60	1.42
-do- Accum	489.20	520.30	- 2.20	1.42
Contl Smllr Cos	58.04	59.99	- 0.26	0.60
-do- Accum	59.14	63.31	- 0.27	0.60
Convertible	129.10	137.30†	- 0.70	5.52
-do- Accum	273.80	291.20	- 1.60	5.22
Emerging Markets	63.01	67.31†	- 0.49	0.23
-do- Accum	63.24	67.58	- 0.50	0.24
European	124.50	131.80	- 2.70	0.38
-do- Accum	131.00	138.70	- 2.70	0.39
Extra Income	354.60	377.10	- 3.50	4.11
-do- Accum	544.60	578.10	- 5.20	4.11
Financial	147.00	157.50	- 2.20	0.50
-do- Accum	156.70	166.70	- 2.30	0.50
Gilt Trust	64.84	66.85	- 0.43	6.00
-do- Accum	95.48	98.45	- 0.64	6.09
Health Fund Inc	210.60	225.00†	- 5.30	..
-do- Accum	210.60	225.00†	- 5.30	...
Income & Growth	203.00	218.30†	- 2.70	3.37
-do- Accum	318.70	341.30†	- 4.20	3.37
Intl Growth	391.20	417.80	- 7.80	.
-do- Accum	434.30	463.70	- 8.80	..
Japan & Gen	180.88	192.70	- 2.70	
-do- Accum	182.60	194.60	- 2.60	
Monthly Inc #	175.60	186.70†	- 1.40	3.73
Managed Pen Inc	111.50	117.40	- 1.40	2.09
-do- Accum	119.80	139.10	- 1.50	2.09
Quarterly Income #	52.71	56.56†	- 0.48	3.57
-do- Accum #	58.44	62.69†	- 0.52	3.57
Recovery	339.80	363.40	- 4.90	0.09
-do- Accum	401.30	429.10	- 5.70	0.09
UK Growth	58.77	62.77	- 0.81	2.67
-do- Accum	62.28	66.52	- 0.86	2.67
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	54.48	57.95†	- 1.00	0.51
FP Am Smllr Cos	173.10	185.10		
FP Asian Growth	263.80	282.10†	..	..
FP Australian	375.40	402.70		
FP Equity Dist	408.10	434.10†	- 4.60	2.67
-do- Accum	885.00	941.40†	- 9.80	2.67
FP Euro Gth	242.40	257.80	- 2.40	0.18
-do- Accum	263.50	280.30	- 2.50	0.18
FP Intl Bond	62.14	65.75		4.80
FP Intl Gth Dist	35.14	37.50†	- 0.44	0.48
-do- Accum	51.31	54.75†	- 0.65	0.48
FP Pac Basin Acc	208.20	222.50†	- 1.80	..
FP Income	54.84	58.49†		5.11
-do- Accum	185.40	197.70	..	5.11
FP Jap Smllr Cos	305.50	325.80		..
FP Monthly Dist	73.07	77.98†	..	5.07
FP Stlg Deposit	101.00	101.00	.	6
FP Tokyo	82.40	87.88		
FP UK Focus	38.61	41.51	.	2.60
FP UK Growth	184.30	196.40	.	2.75
-do- Accum	361.90	385.80		2.75
Stewardship Dist	369.60	393.10†	- 1.60	1.93
-do- Accum	460.00	489.30†	- 2.00	1.93
Stwdshp Inc Dist	74.35	79.09	- 0.29	4.78
-do- Accum	98.99	105.30	- 0.40	4.78
N Am Stshp Dist	112.70	119.80	- 2.30	1.00
-do- Accum	120.40	128.00	- 2.40	1.00
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	117.90	125.40†		1.18
Open Cap Gth Acc	121.10	128.80†		0.07
Cap Gth Inc Inc	113.10	120.30	..	2.40
Cap Gth Inc Acc	117.00	124.40		2.40
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic	116.40	123.80		3.34
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac	120.90	128.60	..	3.34
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	258.20	274.10†	- 3.70	2.25
Cash	49.56	50.30†	+ 0.01	5.29
Growth Portfolio	82.40	87.34	- 1.07	0.94
Income Portfolio	66.09	69.89†	- 0.69	4.41
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	205.40	219.70	- 2.30	1.54
Dividend	92.38	98.86	- 1.20	4.83
Intl Gth & Inc	232.60	248.80	- 3.90	3.17
UK & Gen	47.31	50.80	- 0.86	2.59
Fund of Funds	69.68	74.52	- 0.50	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	233.50	249.80	- 3.20	..
European	587.00	627.20	- 7.10	0.30
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	51.34	54.45	- 0.37	4.99
-do- Accum	55.65	59.27	- 0.40	4.99
Far East & Gen	260.50	278.60†	- 1.30	
Germany	119.20	126.40	- 0.80	
High Yield #	50.06	52.91†	- 0.25	8.03
-do- Accum #	52.58	55.58	- 0.26	8.03
Income Inc	167.80	179.50	- 2.10	4.37
-do- Accum	185.10	198.00	- 2.40	4.37
International	352.70	377.10	- 2.40	
Intl Income	90.91	96.23†	- 1.03	2.99
Japan & General	438.90	467.30	- 2.90	
Korean Securities	64.49	68.98	- 1.81	.
Orient Acc	140.80	150.60	- 1.40	0.23
Smllr Cos Div Inc	44.93	48.06	- 0.15	4.20
-do- Accum	49.61	53.06	- 0.17	4.20
UK Capital Inc	178.30	190.70	- 1.40	1.50
UK Capital Acc	314.20	336.10	- 2.50	1.50
UK Spec Sits	91.62	97.99	- 1.08	1.32
US & General	172.50	183.00	- 4.20	.
Wwide Spec Sits	152.00	162.50	- 2.00	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2009 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	55.06	58.77	- 0.82	1.89
Cash Trust	141.53	141.53†	+ 0.01	5.99
Practical Inv Inc #	118.47	126.71	- 1.13	2.67
-do- Accum #	278.03	297.36	- 2.66	2.67
UK Index	163.46	164.28	- 2.10	3.29
UK Smaller Cos	144.06	154.08	- 1.25	0.75
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.68	25.57	- 0.11	7.51
High Income	33.63	35.93†	- 0.23	5.23
UK Equity Income	146.14	156.30	- 1.55	3.13
Global Bond	30.64	31.78†	- 0.13	5.07
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	42.67	45.64	- 0.24	..
Global Managed	141.01	149.84	- 2.10	1.61
Gold & Intl Res	106.50	113.80	- 1.07	0.99
Global Utilities	137.70	147.43†	- 1.03	1.75
Overseas Funds				
American	171.91	182.94	- 4.81	0.95
European	116.19	123.18	- 2.49	0.97
Euro Sel Opps	172.30	186.68		..
Amer Emerging	130.37	139.43†	- 4.95	.
Hong Kong	144.29	154.52	- 1.89	2.08
Japan	246.56	261.83	- 2.25	
Pacific Growth	214.76	229.69	- 0.65	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	231.07	231.07	+ 0.89	2.19
Long Term Bal	251.50	251.50	- 5.87	3.21
Med Term Bal	215.32	215.32	- 1.56	3.19
UK Equity	254.83	264.83†	- 3.55	2.66
UK Emerging Cos	152.98	152.98†	- 0.80	2.16
American	289.11	289.11	- 5.98	1.19
Japan	130.29	130.29	- 1.28	.
European	300.74	300.74	- 6.43	1.07
Index Linked Gilt	180.28	180.28†	- 0.62	2.71
Fixed Interest	172.07	172.07†	- 0.86	6.36
Amer Emergng	302.40	302.40	- 9.96	...
Pacific	238.74	238.74†	- 0.02	0.83
Emerging Mkts	116.10	116.10	- 0.64	0.76
Index Stnd Japan	154.75	154.75	+ 1.65	0.19
-do- Pacific Rim	187.57	187.57	- 1.14	1.48
-do- Cont Europe	169.28	169.28	- 2.80	1.99
Index Stnd USA	169.72	169.72	- 3.15	1.84
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	108.85	115.80	- 1.38	
Med Term Bal	102.40	108.93	- 0.79	
Long Term Bal	114.49	121.79	- 1.24	
UK Equity	122.55	130.37	- 1.75	
UK Emerging Cos	71.72	76.29	- 0.40	.
American	134.16	142.72	- 2.94	.
Japan	62.35	66.32	- 0.66	...
European	124.99	132.96	- 2.84	.
Fixed Interest	87.47	93.05	- 0.48	
Index Linked Gilt	80.12	85.23	- 0.29	
Deposit	84.06	89.42	+ 0.01	.
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	150.61	158.54	- 0.53	0.54
Brellill Gth Port Inc	68.74	72.56	- 0.24	0.60
-do- Inc Port Inc	60.01	63.34†	- 0.41	3.50
-do- Wwde Port	57.37	60.55	- 0.15	0.10
Shaw Utilities	63.45	66.97†	+ 0.17	3.15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	597.51	635.65	.	2.26
-do- Accum	664.55	706.97		2.26
European Inc	158.35	168.38	- 1.26	1.29
Amalgatr Inc	155.64	164.89	- 1.11	.
N America Inc	363.15	386.33		0.80
Far East Inc	371.77	395.50	.	
-do- Accum	385.04	409.62	.	
UK Dvfd Inc	192.55	204.84		3.85
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 497 7888				
UK Equity Inc	96.09	102.76	- 1.13	4.35
UK Small Cos	58.95	63.04	- 0.48	0.71
British Growth	64.86	69.36	- 0.86	2.44
American Gwth	227.82	243.44	- 9.64	.
Japan Gwth	65.87	70.44	- 0.62	
Greater China	177.18	189.48	+ 0.30	0.56
Pacific Strategy	154.23	164.84	+ 1.72	0.55
European Gwth	94.88	101.29†	- 1.35	0.69
Intl Growth	153.84	164.31	- 2.03	.
US Index (£)	16.6590	17.5529	-0.1964	4.60
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	81.15	86.78	- 1.49	2.13
Monthly Income	40.18	42.85†	- 0.33	8.00
MIS Unit Trust Dealing: 071 865 0033				
Gvd UF Index (£)	12.7068	13.4146	-0.3709	5.50
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	101.19	107.61		1.42
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9888				
European	522.10	557.70†	- 5.40	0.50
Gilt & Fixed	133.00	141.10	- 0.60	5.60
Growth Equity	376.60	402.30	- 5.10	1.42
Income Trust	140.10	149.60	- 1.80	3.40
International	198.60	212.10	- 2.70	0.16
Japan Trust	131.50	140.40	- 0.80	.
Nth American	320.50	342.40	- 7.50	..
Pacific	548.50	585.90	- 5.30	0.05
Guardbill	572.60	611.70	- 7.00	1.50
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	107.96	112.07†	- 0.39	6.10
Global High Inc	102.99	106.91	- 0.64	5.89
Corporate Bond	107.02	111.09	- 0.32	6.13
Eqty & Bond Inc	107.77	114.58	- 0.75	5.19
European Growth	110.75	117.75	- 2.52	
Intl PEP Trust	65.03	69.14	- 1.29	.
Equity Inc	127.04	135.07†	- 1.27	4.24
-do- Accum	180.77	192.21	- 1.80	4.24
Recovery	336.20	357.40	- 3.40	2.22
-do- Accum	394.10	419.00	- 3.90	2.22
St Vinc High Inc	122.82	124.66	- 1.46	7.41
UK Emerg Cos	264.90	281.68†	- 1.70	1.92
UK Smlr Cos	360.70	367.60	-19.60	2.67
Glob Pty Tst	98.75	105.00	- 0.94	1.17
-do- Accum	100.59	106.95	- 0.97	1.17
Inc Share Tst	88.76	94.37†	- 0.83	8.21
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Growth	29.15	30.91	- 0.33	1.92
Growth Acc	29.52	31.30	- 0.34	1.92
Income	28.78	30.51†	- 0.31	4.45
Income Acc	29.78	31.57	- 0.31	4.45
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
Model Ptflio	220.80	232.10	- 3.90	2.60
Smaller Cos	34.17	36.35	- 0.14	1.07
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT				
Enquiries: 01277 263 290 Dealing: 01277 234 772				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	337.48	361.09	- 3.67	1.23
Best of British	66.80	70.68†	- 0.83	2.73
UK Smaller Cos	135.21	145.34	- 2.07	1.58
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	284.80	303.29†	- 3.64	3.78
-do- Accum #	788.92	840.17	-10.08	3.78
High Income	325.36	347.80	- 2.23	4.46
Extra Income #	285.44	303.58†	- 2.04	5.09
Pref & Bond	48.31	49.92	- 0.16	8.30
International				
International	297.10	316.05	- 4.44	..
Global Bond	57.45	60.47†	- 0.41	5.71
Intl Port Tst	91.07	97.39†	- 0.44	0.50
Global Tech	225.00	240.78†	- 7.56	.
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	174.07	186.14†	- 0.64	0.81
European	524.97	556.30	- 9.82	0.49
European Income #	85.87	90.89	- 1.05	2.79

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	153.75	164.86	- 2.08	0.92
Far Sp Sits	74.52	79.63	- 1.43	1.32
-do- Accum	79.83	85.30	- 1.53	1.32
Japan Trust	224.64	239.39	- 2.43	.
Japan Special Sits	219.39	233.97	- 1.62	...
Pacific Smll Cos	227.36	243.27	- 2.19	.
North American	282.97	300.49	- 6.87	...
American Smaller	141.78	151.56	- 3.14	..
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	109.00	114.13†	- 1.58	1.94
Capital	188.67	197.56	- 2.54	1.40
Dollar	430.62	450.91	- 8.86	..
Enterprise Gth	365.94	383.18	- 4.30	1.40
European	248.73	260.45	- 4.71	0.51
Far East	308.40	322.94†	- 2.27	.
Financial	935.53	979.61	-17.28	1.84
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.52	27.58	- 0.07	6.65
High Yield	105.22	110.18†	- 1.14	3.88
Income & Growth	150.93	158.04	- 1.77	3.32
International	276.89	289.73	- 4.26	
Japanese General	213.46	223.52†	- 2.15	..
Japan Tech	91.65	98.16	- 1.29	..
Nat Resources	79.24	82.98	- 1.07	...
Portfolio	78.64	82.34	- 1.03	1.42
Smaller Cos	140.66	147.29	- 1.07	0.92
Special Sits	173.12	181.27	- 3.42	0.85
UK Emerging Cos	105.30	110.26	- 0.82	0.89
US Smaller Cos	121.26	126.97	- 3.42	...
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers: 0800 181 890 Investors: 0800 289 505				
UK Funds				
Balanced #	108.10	115.40†	- 1.10	5.88
Capital	650.20	693.90	-10.90	2.22
Income #	601.10	641.50	- 7.10	5.86
Footsie Fund	59.12	59.42†	- 0.86	3.02
Trade Index	112.90	119.50	- 0.70	2.36
UK Index	153.20	162.10	- 2.10	3.28
International Funds				
American Growth	556.60	594.10	-10.50	0.47
American Index	254.50	269.30	- 4.90	1.25
European Growth	122.40	130.60†	- 3.20	0.16
Eurotrack 100	178.90	189.30	- 3.60	1.02
Global Bond	23.33	24.60	- 0.10	5.08
Japan Growth	283.90	302.90	- 3.48	.
Japan Index	82.57	87.38	- 0.77	0.19
Japan Smlr Cos	31.62	33.75	- 0.11	..
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	80.31	84.39†	+ 0.16	0.17
Hong Kong Gwth	115.50	123.30	- 1.40	1.30
Spore & Mlysa Gth	78.75	84.04	- 0.38	...
Tiger Index	199.40	211.00	- 1.10	0.45
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	40.75	42.36	- 0.78	0.59
General Funds				
Managed	79.79	82.94†	- 1.22	1.41
Rupert Child Fnd	92.68	96.34	- 1.27	2.24
UK Growth	65.38	67.96†	- 0.44	2.14
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	84.82	88.17	- 0.85	6.63
Gilt & Fixed Int	27.21	28.07†	- 0.11	7.83
UK Inc & Gwth	43.20	44.91	- 0.65	3.46
UK Income	337.80	351.10	- 4.50	5.04
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	57.67	58.81	- 1.26	0.37
Amer Smlr Cos	133.70	139.00	- 5.80	..
-do- Accum	135.10	140.40	- 5.90	..
Europe Gth	179.10	185.80	- 4.10	.
-do- Accum	185.50	192.40	- 4.40	
Euro Smaller Cos	34.33	35.75	- 0.44	
French Growth	81.32	84.49	- 1.89	0.33
-do- Accum	87.24	90.64	- 2.03	0.33
H Kong & China	84.15	87.47	- 0.93	1.43
Intl Growth	82.93	85.42	- 0.85	0.42
-do- Accum	63.81	66.33	- 0.86	0.42
Japan Gth	33.26	34.57	- 0.33	
-do- Accum	33.26	34.57	- 0.33	
Japan Smaller Cos	38.96	40.50	- 0.31	.
Glob Emg Mkts	91.89	95.52	- 0.74	. .
-do- Accum	92.54	96.20	- 0.74	.
SE Asia	327.00	339.80	- 1.90	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	56.86	58.59†	- 0.26	5.87
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261818				
Sector Value Inc	95.99	101.40	- 1.20	4.93
Sector Value Gwth	96.50	102.00	- 1.30	1.96
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	178.70	190.00	-11.50	
Income	185.82	197.67	- 1.56	3.09
UK Growth	73.18	77.84	- 0.57	0.45
International	80.10	85.20	- 0.32	0.07
Ecology	90.03	95.78	- 1.47	1.12
European	143.12	152.25	- 1.28	
Far Eastern	295.20	314.00	- 4.00	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.10	104.40†	- 0.50	7.37
Gilt Yield	119.00	125.60†	- 0.90	6.77
Global Income	219.30	233.30†	- 2.30	3.71
High Yield	142.00	151.10	- 2.20	5.91
-do- Accum	448.10	476.70	- 7.00	5.91
Smlr Cos Div	55.18	58.70†	- 0.21	2.92
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	124.10	132.00	- 3.20	..
Asian Growth	321.30	341.80	- 2.30	0.24
-do- Accum	377.50	401.80	- 2.90	0.24
North American	96.26	102.40†	- 2.20	0.26
European Special	111.20	118.30	- 2.10	0.11
European	160.40	170.60†	- 3.00	0.48
-do- Accum	211.40	224.90†	- 4.00	0.48
Global Eqty Inc	112.50	119.50	- 1.70	2.15
Japan	421.20	448.10	- 4.10	.
Japanese Special	226.60	241.10	- 2.60	
Smaller Cos	122.50	130.30†	- 1.00	1.17
UK Equity Growth	43.84	46.64	- 0.65	1.58
UK Index Inc	303.70	305.20†	- 4.00	3.56
Bircham Tst	101.40	109.40	+ 0.80	2.74
-do- Accum	101.40	109.40	+ 0.80	2.74
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Budge Income	274.97	292.42	- 3.06	5.29
Inc & Growth Inc	58.58	62.32	- 0.82	4.38
Smaller Cos	69.99	74.46	- 0.85	1.36
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 628				
Growth Trust	267.20	284.20†	- 3.10	1.89
High Income	110.60	117.60	- 1.00	4.42
International	106.10	112.80	- 1.40	0.63
European Trust	81.27	86.45	- 0.92	0.88
Japanese Trust	43.48	46.25	- 0.45	.
American Trust	103.50	110.10	- 2.20	
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	404.10	428.80	- 4.90	2.39
UK Inc/Gth	434.40	460.90	- 4.40	3.03
UK Income	299.10	317.40†	- 3.10	3.78
UK Sm Cos	261.90	280.10	- 1.40	1.76
Euro Gwth	141.90	150.50	- 2.40	
N Amer Gwth	112.30	119.20	- 2.80	0.30
Japan Growth	66.85	70.93	- 0.85	
Money Mkt	128.551	128.551		0.000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist	526.10	559.70	- 7.10	2.66
-do- Accum	£10.61	£11.29	-15.00	2.66
Equity Income #	102.40	108.90	- 1.40	4.44
UK Tactical Alloctn	60.81	64.57†	- 1.13	4.26
European	128.80	137.00	- 2.40	1.87
Intl Bond	56.08	59.55	- 0.32	5.29
Japanese	73.60	78.30†	- 0.80	...
North American	185.70	197.60	- 3.70	0.61
Pacific Growth	110.20	117.20	- 0.80	0.24
UK Index	69.11	72.57	- 0.93	3.11
UK Recovery	102.70	109.30	- 1.40	2.00
UK Smaller Cos	137.70	146.50†	- 4.40	1.45
US Index	75.19	79.38†	- 1.45	1.62
European Index	82.75	87.34	- 1.52	2.21
Japan Index	42.34	44.69	- 0.42	
Worldwide	90.04	95.79†	- 1.13	1.46
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
0181 902 8876 Dealing: 0800 262 621				
Growth	52.32	55.62	- 0.68	2.20
Income	62.00	65.31	- 0.65	3.04
Far East	54.00	57.75	- 0.59	...
North American	119.70	127.90	- 3.40	
Global	103.70	110.80	- 1.60	0.19
European	91.68	98.01	- 1.55	0.66
Japan	106.50	113.90	- 1.30	.
Intl Currency Bd	62.82	66.56	- 0.24	4.20
SE Asia	102.90	110.00	- 1.30	
UK Cap Growth	96.40	103.10	- 0.80	1.71
Recovery Trust	70.72	75.23	- 3.11	1.47
Managed	71.54	76.10	- 0.66	0.64
Cash	51.41	51.41	+ 0.01	..
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	369.50	393.10	- 4.30	2.78
-do- Accum	862.30	917.40	-10.10	2.78
Contl Euro Gth	70.65	74.37†	- 0.97	1.15
-do- Accum	76.03	80.04	- 1.05	1.15
Extra Inc	267.90	285.00†	- 2.70	4.21
-do- Accum	720.60	766.60	- 7.00	4.21
FTSE 100 Inc	110.30	117.40	- 1.60	2.96
FTSE 100 Acc	112.30	119.50	- 1.60	2.96
German Gth	133.60	140.70	- 0.80	.
-do- Accum	140.10	147.50	- 1.00	
Growth Port	595.90	634.00	- 6.70	0.10
-do- Accum	613.60	652.80	- 6.90	0.10
High Interest Inc	99.10	102.70†	- 0.40	7.80
High Interest Acc	100.10	103.80	- 0.50	7.09
Hi Reserve Inc #	104.63	111.30†	- 0.70	6.61
Hi Reserve Acc #	108.80	115.80	- 0.70	6.61
Income	508.70	541.20	-12.60	3.66
-do- Accum	£14.11	£15.02	34.00	3.66
Income Port	541.30	575.90		4.55
-do- Accum	589.80	627.50	+ 0.10	4.55
Japan Growth	111.20	118.30	0.90	

24 hours.

1 phone number.

0345 90 90 90

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	111.50	118.70	- 0.90	...
Master Trust	63.16	67.20	- 0.58	1.23
-do- Accum	71.75	76.34	- 0.77	1.23
N American Gen	224.40	238.80	- 4.20	0.65
-do- Accum	258.50	276.10	- 4.80	0.65
NAm Sm Co Res	168.60	178.40	- 5.30	.
-do- Accum	172.10	183.10	- 5.50	.
Pacific Basin	257.90	274.40	- 1.40	0.35
-do- Accum	274.00	291.50	- 1.50	0.35
Small Cos Rec	422.20	444.50	-17.50	1.83
-do- Accum	575.00	605.30	-24.00	1.83
UK Eq Gth	147.20	156.60	- 1.90	2.94
UK Eq Inc	120.68	128.39	+ 0.30	4.24
UK Growth	93.69	99.68	- 2.52	2.20
-do- Accum	115.40	122.80	- 3.08	2.20
Worldwide Gth	340.30	362.10†	- 4.30	...
-do- Accum	502.80	534.90	- 6.50	
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	78.84	85.52	- 1.35	0.49
General	96.92	103.99†	- 1.42	2.40
Income	67.63	72.58	- 0.76	5.59
International	70.28	75.40	- 0.93	0.40
Japan	59.97	64.34	- 0.32	.
Tst of Inv Trusts	70.72	75.86	- 0.95	1.50
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	475.10	502.40	- 7.80	0.43
-do- Accum	593.10	627.10	- 9.80	0.43
Amer Recovery	516.30	546.00†	- 9.30	0.56
-do- Accum	594.90	629.10†	-10.80	0.56
Amer Smllr Cos	145.30	153.70	- 3.90	.
-do- Accum	148.40	157.00	- 4.00	...
Australasian	170.20	180.00	- 1.40	2.46
-do- Accum	210.00	222.10	- 1.80	2.46
Capital	886.80	937.80	-10.20	3.01
-do- Accum	1028.50	1087.70	-11.80	3.01
Charifund	713.60	720.80†	- 9.20	6.00
-do- Accum	3508.10	3543.20†	-45.30	6.00
Commodity	424.50	448.90	- 6.50	0.40
-do- Accum	625.20	661.10	- 9.60	0.40
Compound Gth	1012.50	1070.70	-15.90	3.02
-do- Accum	1089.40	1151.90	-17.20	3.02
Dividend	42.40	44.80†	- 0.60	4.47
-do- Accum	184.60	195.40†	- 2.50	4.47
Equity Income	333.90	353.10	- 3.09	5.14
-do- Accum	443.10	468.70	- 3.80	5.14
Euro & General	541.30	572.40†	- 4.80	1.41
-do- Accum	690.40	730.10†	- 6.10	1.41
Euro Dividend	77.00	81.40	- 0.30	3.77
-do- Accum	94.90	100.40	- 0.30	3.77
Extra Yield	430.90	455.70	- 6.45	4.94
-do- Accum	1395.60	1476.10	-20.70	4.94
Far Eastern	357.30	377.80	- 2.60	0.44
-do- Accum	476.50	503.90	- 3.50	0.44
Fund of Inv Tsts	858.50	908.40†	- 7.70	1.93
-do- Accum	1251.10	1323.00†	-14.70	1.93
General	63.59	67.20†	- 0.90	3.91
-do- Accum	184.70	195.30†	- 2.70	3.91
Gilt Income	62.41	62.50†	- 0.35	6.80
-do- Accum	181.14	181.39†	- 1.01	6.80
Gold	67.00	70.90	- 0.10	0.64
-do- Accum	79.50	84.10	- 0.10	0.64
High Income	30.40	32.10†	- 0.40	4.96
-do- Accum	126.90	134.10†	- 1.58	4.95
Intl Growth	84.90	89.80	- 0.90	0.53
-do- Accum	149.20	157.90	- 1.60	0.53
International Inc	105.60	111.70	- 0.20	4.00
-do- Accum	163.20	172.70	- 1.20	4.03
Japan & Gen	42.80	45.30†	- 0.50	...
-do- Accum	45.90	48.60†	- 0.50	..
Japan Smlr Cos	146.90	155.30	- 0.75	.
-do- Accum	147.99	156.40	- 0.70	
Managed Gwth	25.00	26.40	- 0.30	1.63
Managed Income	28.60	30.00†	- 0.30	4.35
Midland	58.20	61.50	- 0.40	3.75
-do- Accum	199.70	211.20	- 1.50	3.75
Pension Ex	973.00	987.30	-11.90	4.47
Recovery	44.10	46.60†	- 0.60	2.75
-do- Accum	74.20	78.50†	- 1.03	2.75
Second General	70.45	74.48†	- 0.60	3.77
-do- Accum	188.50	199.30†	- 1.30	3.77
Smaller Cos	69.40	73.40	- 0.50	3.32
-do- Accum	139.90	148.10	- 1.00	3.32
Sterling Hi Int	25.45	25.55†	- 0.13	7.20
Treasury	25.12	25.17†	- 0.01	6.33
Trustee	40.90	43.30	- 0.40	4.54
-do- Accum	171.00	181.10	- 1.50	4.54
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	87.45	93.05	- 1.51	1.27
Intl Bond	67.64	71.29†	- 0.15	5.50
Intl Equity Growth	79.89	84.03†	- 1.34	0.65
N Amer Growth	121.01	129.56	- 2.56	0.72
Special Sits Growth	23.77	25.28	- 0.27	2.16
UK Growth	409.58	435.72	- 4.99	2.64
-do- Accum	548.97	584.01	- 6.63	2.64
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1432.40	1452.50†	..	3.00
Income #	1047.60	1064.20	..	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.10	162.30	..	3.72
For Manulife see Canada Life				
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 068				
M & S Inv Ptflio	164.90	173.60	- 1.25	2.17
-do- Accum	191.90	202.00	- 1.25	2.17
UK Sel Ptflio	142.10	149.60†	- 1.19	2.55
-do- Accum	168.90	177.80†	- 1.19	2.56
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	74.43	79.18		3.59
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	77.72	82.50†	- 0.96	4.19
European	92.03	97.70	- 0.86	1.17
Income #	77.90	82.70†	- 0.95	4.32
Nth American	80.30	85.24	- 1.56	0.43
Far East	168.50	178.90	- 0.50	0.85
Japan	60.44	64.16	- 0.51	
Emrging Mkts	82.90	88.66	- 0.38	0.02
Intl Growth	120.30	127.70	- 1.40	0.57
UK Growth	105.80	112.30†	- 0.90	1.64
UK Smlr Co	51.89	55.09†	- 0.36	1.35
Asian Opps Fd	36.91	39.48	- 0.27	0.45
Glob Gwth PEP	55.58	59.00	- 0.74	0.48
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	97.57	103.80†		
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	444.86	473.26	- 5.25	3.75
Global Inc	74.70	79.47	- 1.01	3.52
Brit Leaders	379.31	403.52	- 6.09	1.74
Intl Leaders	215.06	228.79	- 2.82	1.36
PAM Mg Bal Gth	68.20	70.86	- 0.35	0.73
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0171 280 2060				
American	239.60	253.00†	- 5.70	.
-do- Accum	256.30	270.50†	- 6.10	
American Opps	106.10	113.20	- 3.00	
-do- Accum	107.50	114.60	- 3.10	
British Blue Chip	87.29	92.75	- 1.37	2.59
-do- Accum	110.40	117.30	- 1.70	2.59
Cash	100.89	100.80		6.36
-do- Accum *	143.20	143.20		6.36
Emerging Mkts	106.80	114.80	..	0.12
-do- Accum	107.50	115.60	..	0.12
European Growth	263.40	280.10	- 3.80	0.16
-do- Accum	285.80	303.80	- 4.20	0.16
European Income	88.94	94.14†	- 0.54	3.05
-do- Accum	124.80	132.00†	- 0.80	3.05
General	548.80	584.50	- 7.10	2.12
-do- Accum	1095.00	1168.00	-14.00	2.12
Global Bond	134.40	141.20	- 0.80	5.22
-do- Accum	169.40	177.90	- 0.80	5.22
Gold & General	214.60	230.80	- 0.30	0.39
-do- Accum	221.60	238.30	- 0.30	0.39
Govt Securities	93.72	95.63†	- 0.40	6.07
-do- Accum	191.60	197.50†	- 0.80	6.07
High Yield Bd	102.00	105.50†	- 0.40	6.62
-do- Accum	103.40	107.00†	- 0.30	6.62
Income	168.60	179.10†	- 2.10	4.03
-do- Accum	271.40	288.30†	- 3.40	4.03
Inc Portfolio #	103.90	110.10†	- 1.20	4.77
-do- Accum #	108.80	118.40†	- 1.30	4.77
Intl Opps	496.60	528.60†	- 4.90	0.17
-do- Accum	666.90	711.49†	- 6.60	0.17
Japan	175.20	185.60	- 1.10	.
-do- Accum	179.90	190.50	- 1.20	
New Europe	195.70	208.70	- 1.30	0.96
-do- Accum	201.60	215.20	- 1.30	0.96
Pacific	114.30	121.90	- 0.20	0.84
-do- Accum	122.70	130.90	- 0.30	0.84
Recovery	346.30	369.40†	- 3.30	0.70
-do- Accum	449.20	479.10†	- 4.10	0.70
UK Smaller Cos	57.10	60.91	- 0.21	0.85
-do- Accum	65.19	69.54	- 0.24	0.85
Portfolio	87.82	93.04	- 0.99	2.48
-do- Accum	105.60	112.00	- 1.20	2.48
Managed Gth	106.80	111.90†	- 1.10	1.70
Managed Inc	111.70	115.80†	- 1.10	3.89
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	124.36	132.30	- 1.79	0.18
Portfolio	72.58	77.21	- 1.00	1.55
UK Income Inc	82.70	87.98	- 1.01	4.94
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	64.36	67.98	- 0.68	2.06
-do- Accum	69.75	73.03	- 0.75	2.06
British Tst	95.33	99.87	- 1.58	2.05
-do- Accum	111.80	117.00	- 2.00	2.05
Extra High Inc	69.80	73.09	- 0.48	6.47
-do- Accum	141.00	147.60	- 0.90	6.47
FT-SE 100 Acc	61.52	64.41	- 0.94	2.57
FT-SE 100 Dist	59.67	62.48	- 0.91	2.57
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.49	58.79†	- 0.19	6.60
-do- Accum	172.30	179.30†	- 0.60	6.60
High Yield	226.90	237.60	- 1.90	5.94
-do- Accum	599.10	627.30	- 5.00	5.94
Income	299.10	313.20	- 3.30	4.27
-do- Accum	672.70	704.30	- 7.80	4.27
Money Market UT	49.44	49.44		5.64
-do- Accum	80.26	80.26	.	5.64
Monthly Income	88.67	93.06†	- 0.84	4.93
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	118.80	124.30	- 2.00	1.58
European Growth	118.50	123.50	- 0.90	0.02
Gilt & Fixed	95.14	100.90	- 0.40	5.50
Income	91.64	97.49	- 1.05	2.62

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	52.17	55.30	+ 0.72	...
Managed	76.35	81.22	- 0.83	2.16
Money Market	90.95	95.40		4.17
North American	106.00	112.30	+ 0.10	0.40
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	105.50	112.70	- 1.90	1.57
European Growth	109.50	116.10	- 0.70	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	90.16	95.67	- 0.30	5.49
Income	89.88	95.62	- 1.03	2.69
Japan Growth	51.92	55.04	+ 0.17	..
Managed	72.96	77.62	- 0.80	2.14
Money Market	93.92	98.56	+ 0.01	4.13
North American	95.73	101.50	+ 0.10	0.48
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	105.70	112.48	- 1.90	1.56
European Growth	106.50	113.30	- 0.80	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	82.85	87.90	- 0.28	5.61
Income	88.26	93.80	- 1.02	2.72
Japan Growth	53.11	56.30	+ 0.13	..
Managed	75.73	80.56	- 0.83	2.15
Money Market	77.95	82.62	- 0.01	4.21
North American	107.10	113.50	+ 0.10	0.37
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	13.99	14.83		
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	423.30	449.40	-10.10	...
European Gth Inc	559.30	601.40†	-14.60	...
-do- Accum	565.40	607.90†	-14.60	...
Intl Gwth	215.40	229.00†	- 4.00	...
UK Equity Inc	202.80	215.60	- 2.30	2.96
Do. Accum	268.30	285.30	- 2.90	2.96
UK Ind Trckr Inc	175.50	187.50	- 2.50	2.68
-do- Accum	211.20	225.80	- 3.00	2.68
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	248.90	265.00	- 4.90	1.03
Japan Tracker	77.53	82.11†	- 0.84	..
Asian Tiger	211.00	227.50	- 1.30	0.29
Managed Inc	169.60	181.30†	- 1.80	2.14
Deposit Inc	99.88	99.88†	+ 0.01	6.01
Europa	258.90	280.40	- 4.39	..
Genesis	178.60	193.70†	- 1.70	1.64
High Income	21.43	22.72	- 0.18	70.80
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 690 933				
Acumen	132.50	104.80	- 0.90	2.34
Acumen Inc	94.82	96.97	- 0.82	2.34
Acumen Reserve	92.27	93.29	- 0.38	8.01
-do- Inc	75.82	76.36	- 0.25	8.01
Acumen Growth	61.41	63.25	- 0.90	
Cash Income	49.92	49.92†	+ 2.73	6.00
Equity Income #	97.71	100.30†	- 1.10	4.84
European	74.02	75.45	- 1.13	0.37
Smaller Cos	82.70	86.87†	- 1.33	1.36
Wwide Eqty	70.49	72.30	- 0.73	0.12
Global Bond	46.88	47.41†	- 0.07	6.36
UK Growth	103.00	105.80	- 1.00	2.06
Pacific Growth	111.40	115.50	- 0.80	0.80
Japan Growth	104.70	106.68	- 0.50	...
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Acc Equity	134.96	143.57	- 1.82	2.51
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	81.23	86.41	- 1.15	2.19
UK Income	114.72	122.04†	- 0.27	4.04
Higher Income	215.87	229.65†	- 2.02	5.30
Smaller Cos	89.34	95.04	- 0.87	1.89
International	104.47	111.14	- 1.44	1.56
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	121.10	128.80†	- 1.50	0.30
European Dist	127.40	135.50†	- 2.50	0.20
Far East Dist	189.80	201.90	- 1.10	.
Global Care Dist	80.10	85.21†	- 1.05	0.67
Oseas Dist	1115.10	1186.30	-16.40	0.01
-do- Accum	1447.30	1539.70	-21.20	0.01
UK Dist	382.50	406.90†	- 4.90	2.55
-do- Accum	766.10	815.00	-10.10	2.55
UK Extra Inc Dist	86.42	91.94	- 0.56	3.54
Wwide Dist	114.90	122.30	- 1.60	0.30
Wwide Inc Dist	78.73	83.75	- 1.06	2.29
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS				
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 398				
Europe Inc	68.21	71.99	- 1.28	1.17
Fund of Funds Inc	63.14	66.64†	- 0.69	2.25
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	49.02	51.64	- 0.22	7.91
UK Income Inc	60.80	64.17†	- 0.61	3.51
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0500 550 000 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American Tst	44.45	47.29	- 0.93	.
-do- Accum	44.80	47.86	- 0.94	..
Bond	126.12	133.84†	- 1.17	5.63
Bridge Fund	92.98	98.91	...	2.16
Cash Income	50.22	50.22†	+ 0.01	5.90
-do- Accum	66.72	66.72†	+ 0.01	5.90
Distributor	96.25	102.69†	- 1.17	3.11
European	48.42	49.39	- 0.79	0.17
Foundation	99.98	106.36	- 1.15	3.73
General	203.46	216.45	- 2.91	1.16
Global	345.76	367.83	- 4.94	0.19
Growth	130.28	138.60	- 1.66	2.63
Higher Income Inc	30.19	32.12	- 0.34	4.55
-do- Accum	35.29	37.55	- 0.41	4.55
Income	249.64	265.57†	+ 0.73	3.16
Intrepid	135.38	141.82†		1.92
Japan	26.15	27.82	- 0.21	.
Managed Tst Inc	52.08	55.67	- 0.65	2.10
-do- Accum	55.49	59.54	- 0.69	2.10
Oriental Inc	156.37	166.35	- 1.80	0.30
-do- Accum	151.54	161.21	- 1.74	0.30
Pers Int Gwth	33.50	35.63	- 0.51	0.41
Royal Scottish Assurance				
Cap Hse Global Inc	80.53	86.12	- 0.94	1.59
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
Managed	105.50	112.70	.	2.27
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	132.13	139.08	- 1.78	1.32
UK Equity	151.40	159.37	- 2.25	3.07
UK Equity Income	138.39	145.67†	- 1.61	3.51
UK Smaller Cos	123.23	129.72	- 0.83	1.73
UK Equity Growth	142.66	150.17	- 2.31	2.25
UK Index Trckg	154.09	162.20	- 0.83	3.47
Intl Index Trckg	163.39	171.99	- 2.60	0.99
International	258.79	272.41	- 4.00	0.67
European	220.97	232.60	- 4.36	0.27
Pan European	146.17	153.86†	- 2.51	1.38
Nth American	212.83	223.82†	- 4.24	0.18
N Amer Smlr Cos	225.62	237.49	- 3.77	...
Japanese	93.53	98.45†	- 1.16	.
Pacific	236.80	249.05†	- 2.82	0.63
South East Asian	261.41	275.17	- 1.98	0.84
Intl Bond	144.68	152.29	- 0.61	5.19
Gilt & Convertible	108.47	114.18†	- 0.73	6.19
Property	77.23	81.29†	- 0.11	6.94
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	249.60	267.40	- 4.20	0.43
-do- Accum	264.10	282.90	- 4.40	0.43
Japan Inc	108.00	115.30	- 0.80	.
Nth American Inc	118.10	126.70	- 2.80	0.32
Worldwide Inc	165.70	177.80	- 2.08	0.39
Hong Kong Inc	149.10	160.00	- 1.80	1.59
Swiss Equities Inc	85.01	90.83	- 1.30	0.11
Wwide Bond Inc	67.29	71.19	- 0.37	4.94
Emrging Asia Inc	205.90	223.90†	+ 0.30	0.14
-do- Accum	206.70	224.80	+ 0.30	0.14
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.30	50.30†		6.41
Thailand Inc	161.30	178.00†	- 1.10	1.28
New Zealand Inc	94.59	101.80	- 0.70	1.83
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	66.03	70.84	- 0.59	1.42
Latin Am Cmp Inc	56.81	60.50	- 0.90	0.30
UK All Sh Mkt Inc	64.61	69.26	- 0.86	2.49
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	84.78	90.67	- 0.27	..
Global Portfolio	76.11	81.40	- 0.22	
Global Opps	67.77	72.48	- 0.22	
Marsh Global Gth	65.86	69.84	- 0.90	.
AAM Global Equity	55.94	59.29	- 0.10	2.12
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	100.80	107.70	- 1.50	.
Temple Equity Inc	44.80	48.88	- 0.53	2.29
Hanley Growth	96.82	103.00	- 0.80	.
Intl Growth Inc	88.57	94.73	- 0.59	1.03
IPS Portfolio Inc	88.51	94.68	- 0.40	.
Promer Perlms Inc	70.29	75.17	- 0.04	1.74
Rotherga Stral Gth	75.41	80.31	- 1.06	0.48
Slater Gwth	115.00	122.30	- 1.60	.
International Stral	79.90	85.45	- 0.36	
UFC Ind-Acc Gth	59.62	63.77	- 0.32	.
Coventale Topmkt	52.13	58.40	- 0.10	.
Prom Equity Inc	112.50	122.70	- 1.70	
Lowes Intl Growth	51.23	53.93	- 0.76	
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	256.20	272.50†	- 2.70	2.60
-do- Accum	553.60	588.90	- 5.90	2.60
Growth	167.70	176.50	- 1.80	2.86
Income	250.70	266.70	- 2.50	3.76
Intl Equity	273.40	290.80	- 2.90	0.73
-do- Accum	304.40	323.80	- 3.20	0.73
UK Income	69.62	74.06	- 0.72	3.25
UK Ind 25	86.27	91.77	- 0.87	2.05
New Europe	87.40	92.97	- 0.79	0.35
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	653.71	699.16	- 9.82	0.33
-do- Accum	656.27	701.90	- 9.86	0.33
Income	398.74	426.46	- 2.53	3.07
Wwide Recovery	424.01	453.49	- 4.78	0.53
Amer Growth Inc	271.30	290.17	- 3.67	0.01
-do- Accum	271.30	290.17	- 3.67	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	261.36	279.53	- 2.94	0.15
Far East Grth Inc	289.92	310.08†	- 3.17	0.49
-do- Accum	291.24	311.49	- 3.18	0.49
Euro Gwth Inc	162.38	173.67†	- 3.47	0.22
-do- Accum	162.91	174.24	- 3.49	0.22
UK Growth Inc	104.28	111.53	- 0.73	2.58
-do- Accum	109.70	117.33	- 0.77	2.56
High Income	106.54	113.95	- 0.73	3.83
Jap Gwth Inc	218.88	233.41	- 2.82	0.01
-do- Accum	218.88	233.41	- 2.82	0.01
PEP Growth	132.49	141.87	- 1.60	0.68
Asian Str Mkts Inc	127.08	135.90	- 0.86	0.44
-do- Accum	127.06	135.90	- 0.86	0.44
Amer Smlr Co Inc	170.46	182.32†	- 2.27	0.01
-do- Accum	170.46	182.32	- 2.27	0.01
Global Bond	58.17	61.26	- 0.40	6.22
UK Smaller Cos Inc	94.66	101.25	- 0.80	1.50
-do- Accum	99.60	106.53	- 0.85	1.50
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 261 3627				
American	120.77	128.48†	- 0.72	
European	80.34	85.47	- 0.01	..
Global	66.51	70.75†	- 0.16	.
Pacific	60.18	64.02	- 0.79	
UK Inc & Gth	71.09	75.63	- 0.54	2.20
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	179.14	189.57	- 1.12	0.63
Emerg Mkts	44.48	47.07	+ 0.02	1.10
High Income #	53.60	56.93†	- 0.11	5.71
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	152.51	162.25	- 1.40	1.91
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 282 443				
American Income	110.80	117.90	- 1.79	3.21
Conv & Gilt	114.00	121.30†	- 0.70	6.04
European Income	79.27	84.33	- 0.68	3.39
Extra Income	166.80	177.40†	- 2.00	5.36
-do- Accum	211.30	224.70	- 2.60	5.36
Far East	398.80	424.20	- 1.70	0.24
-do- Accum	407.20	433.10	- 1.70	0.24
Global Income	27.73	29.50	- 0.26	5.17
High Income	124.98	132.90	- 1.60	4.34
-do- Accum	154.30	164.20	- 1.98	4.34
International	203.20	216.20	- 2.90	0.73
-do- Accum	210.30	223.80	- 3.00	0.73
Pref & Fxd Int	44.32	47.14	- 0.18	7.21
Recovery	76.22	81.08	- 0.57	2.99

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	120.50	128.20†	- 0.90	1.60
-do- Accum	132.70	141.20	- 0.90	1.60
Technology	616.30	655.60	-23.00	...
UK Blue Chip	76.68	81.58	- 1.09	3.39
-do- Accum	87.52	93.10	- 1.24	3.39
PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3963				
Equity Gth	220.30	234.30	- 4.10	1.54
European Gth	115.10	122.40	- 1.00	0.94
Income & Gth #	147.10	156.50	- 1.30	3.27
Japan Gth	118.30	125.80	- 0.20	...
Nth Amer Gth	189.50	201.80	- 3.90	0.08
Overseas Gth	112.80	120.10	- 1.30	0.27
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4498				
Managed Tst	41.67	43.18	- 0.35	1.72
Cash Haven Inc	101.30	101.79†	+ 0.01	5.73
Cash Haven Acc	115.25	115.81†	+ 0.01	5.73
Dist Trust Inc	102.70	108.42	- 1.35	6.06
Dist Trust Acc	111.07	116.09	- 0.85	6.06
Global Growth	98.11	104.37	- 1.13	1.42
Equity Inc	86.72	92.25†	- 0.83	3.49
Equity	801.77	852.94	- 8.93	2.22
European	238.81	245.39†	- 3.05	0.65
High Income	89.81	95.54†	- 0.47	5.09
Intl Gth	205.60	218.78	- 2.49	0.89
Intl Sm Co	87.97	93.58	- 0.94	0.82
Japanese	219.96	227.93	- 3.24	..
Nth Amer	218.20	224.94†	- 3.61	1.19
Pacific Mkts	112.38	118.45	- 2.08	0.28
Premier Inc	49.56	51.58	- 0.17	9.49
Sm Cos	100.59	107.01	- 0.27	1.42
Spec Sits	117.77	125.26	- 1.97	2.56
UK Growth	135.10	143.72	- 1.50	2.15
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	320.90	340.40	- 4.00	3.22
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Inc)	618.22	657.41	- 8.66	0.80
FA America (Acc)	723.01	768.84	-10.13	0.80
FA UK Equity Inc	164.83	176.25†	- 1.93	3.69
FA Japan	251.21	267.52	- 1.98	...
FA Major UK Cos	102.39	109.15†	- 1.34	2.30
FA Smllr UK Cos	328.14	356.76	- 1.49	1.26
FA European	357.86	379.95	- 2.56	0.54
FA Amer Smllr Cos	56.01	60.04	- 0.48	0.06
FA Asia	51.86	55.73	- 0.52	0.96
FA Jap Smllr Cos	42.67	45.59	- 0.56	...
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	107.16	112.78	- 1.37	...
UK Smllr Cos	95.92	100.96	- 0.42	...
UK Income	105.58	111.14	- 1.19	...
America	124.57	131.12	- 1.72	...
Japanese	38.53	38.45	- 0.42	...
European	115.27	121.33	- 0.81	...
Gilt	97.31	102.42	- 0.29	...
Deposit	87.22	91.81	...	...
Managed	107.90	113.57	- 1.15	. .
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	104.22	109.70	- 1.32	.
UK Smaller Cos	93.56	98.48	- 0.41	...
UK Income	102.88	108.29	- 1.15	...
America	121.09	127.46	- 1.69	...
Japanese	53.98	56.81	- 0.41	...
European	112.16	118.05	- 0.89	...
Gilt	95.49	100.51	- 0.33	...
Deposit	83.33	87.71	+ 0.01	
Managed	101.34	106.67	- 1.13	.
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	104.30	111.40	- 2.40	0.28
Pacific Basin	77.68	83.57	- 0.56	0.27
High Inc Dist	143.80	153.80	- 1.70	4.44
Ryl Life Inc Dsty	62.63	66.40	- 0.49	4.03
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	73.62	78.66	- 0.95	0.13
Ryl Life Intl Spec	67.23	71.52	- 1.02	...
UK Emerging Cos	136.10	147.10	- 1.60	1.05
UK Index Trckg	182.90	194.90†	...	3.16
European	145.60	156.30	- 2.89	...
Managed	164.40	176.70	- 2.10	0.67
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	175.30	188.40	- 3.30	1.73
European Growth	121.20	128.50	..	2.58
Far East Growth	141.00	152.10	- 0.80	2.02
Japan Growth	136.40	145.00	+ 1.30	.
Special Sits	228.50	243.08	...	1.22
UK Growth	87.78	93.38†	- 0.64	2.09
Triton General	267.50	284.60	- 1.00	1.04
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	166.00	175.70	- 1.80	0.35
Gr Euro Prog Inc	346.20	366.30	- 4.98	0.23
-do- Accum	540.90	572.40	- 7.40	0.23
Growth Inc	140.40	148.60	- 2.10	0.23
-do- Accum	143.90	152.30	- 2.28	0.23
International Inc	360.00	381.00	- 6.70	0.16
-do- Accum	496.30	525.20	- 8.50	0.16
Nth Am & Intl Inc	364.10	385.30	- 8.40	0.57
UK Gen Prog Inc	235.90	249.60	- 2.30	1.14
-do- Accum	265.50	280.90	- 2.50	1.14
UK High Inc Inc	138.70	146.80	- 1.70	3.75
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
American Gwth	74.33	79.08†	- 1.82	..
Asian Gwth	116.03	123.43	- 1.34	0.75
European Gwth	77.41	82.35†	- 0.58	1.00
Global Bd	62.43	66.02	- 0.28	5.00
Global Eq	62.83	66.84†	- 0.81	0.50
Japan Sm Cos	57.17	60.82	- 0.56	.
UK Gwth	75.46	80.27†	- 0.87	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	84.52	89.91	- 1.35	3.35
Amer Smllr Cos	135.30	143.99	- 3.40	..
Asian Smaller Cos	42.04	44.72	- 0.87	
Capital Portfolio	137.20	146.00	- 2.40	1.97
Cash	130.80	130.80†	..	6.11
China Dragon	58.38	62.11	- 0.65	1.51
Commodity	131.80	140.20	- 7.88	...
Eastern Discovery	102.80	109.40	- 0.70	.
Emerging Mkts	35.65	37.93	- 0.88	0.04
Energy Inds	136.20	144.90	- 0.60	0.15
European Gwth	202.50	215.40†	- 1.80	0.21
Euro Inc & Gwth #	85.02	90.45	- 0.70	1.88
Euro Smllr Cos	59.28	63.06†	- 1.10	0.08
Extra Income #	54.74	58.47†	- 0.62	5.54
Financial Secs	252.10	268.20†	- 4.50	1.25
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	50.18	52.99	- 0.18	8.55
Gold & Exploration	78.88	83.91	- 0.79	...
High Return #	241.50	256.90	- 6.40	3.95
High Yield #	242.30	257.80	- 3.50	3.71
Income #	126.00	134.00	- 1.90	4.19
Intl Bond	178.30	186.10	- 0.40	5.43
ITU	221.50	235.80	- 5.50	0.82
Japan Growth	175.80	187.09	- 1.10	..
Japan Smaller	175.40	186.60	- 0.20	..
Korea	61.25	65.18	+ 1.72	...
Masterfund	59.14	62.91†	- 1.22	0.95
Scotbits	380.50	404.80	- 6.80	0.91
Scotshares #	320.60	340.40†	- 5.50	1.86
Scotyields #	258.30	274.80	- 8.90	3.38
Select Intl	148.40	156.70	- 2.10	0.49
Smaller Cos Inc #	246.00	261.70	- 1.30	3.85
SE Asia	51.91	55.22	- 1.40	0.22
Special Situation	142.30	151.40	- 2.40	1.82
UK Equity #	269.79	288.90	- 4.40	2.57
UK Growth	72.57	77.20	- 1.31	1.93
UK & O'seas	181.90	193.50	- 2.80	1.24
UK Smllr Cos Gwth	52.88	56.26	- 0.38	1.54
US Growth	187.00	198.80	- 4.00	0.13
Univ Growth	148.40	157.90	- 2.20	0.38
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	307.37	325.79†	- 4.79	0.99
-do- Accum	338.16	358.42†	- 5.27	0.99
European Gwth	81.87	86.88	- 1.55	0.83
Euro Smllr Cos	88.65	94.40	- 1.18	0.48
Far Eastern Gth	98.81	105.39	- 1.14	...
-do- Accum	100.59	107.29	- 1.16	.
Gilt & Fixed Int #	53.12	56.00	- 0.54	7.32
Global Bond #	54.27	58.08	- 0.35	6.92
-do- Accum #	61.04	63.08	- 0.39	6.92
Global Emer Mkts	51.34	54.76	- 0.25	.
-do- Accum	51.39	54.81	- 0.25	
Income #	377.22	402.35	- 4.75	5.15
-do- Accum #	£12.26	£13.08	-15.44	5.15
Japan Smllr Cos	443.39	472.94	- 4.16	
-do- Accum	444.27	473.89	- 4.16	.
Japan Enterprise	69.01	73.61	- 1.08	..
Pacific Gwth	140.26	149.61	- 1.18	0.53
-do- Accum	144.79	154.44	- 1.22	0.53
Portfolio	87.69	93.53	- 1.15	2.00
-do- Accum	95.87	102.26	- 1.26	2.00
Seoul	48.25	51.46	+ 1.05	.
-do- Accum	48.25	51.46	+ 1.05	
Smaller Cos	247.46	263.95	- 2.36	1.29
Tokyo	126.77	135.22	- 1.55	..
-do- Accum	128.05	136.58	- 1.57	.
UK Enterprise	296.36	316.11	- 4.84	2.17
-do- Accum	361.64	385.74	- 5.91	2.17
UK Equity	268.21	286.09	- 3.02	2.63
-do- Accum	528.22	563.44	- 5.94	2.83
US Smllr Cos	302.12	215.59†	- 3.55	
-do- Accum	202.12	215.59†	- 3.56	.
Institutional Funds				
European	263.90	273.97	- 2.91	1.40
-do- Accum	295.24	306.50	- 3.25	1.40
Euro Smllr Cos	30.17	31.42	- 0.30	1.49
-do- Accum	32.41	33.75	- 0.32	1.49
Global Equity Inc	84.79	88.32	- 1.19	1.14
Japan Smllr Cos	37.57	39.13	- 0.02	0.12
-do- Accum	37.89	39.47	- 0.02	0.12
Mngd Balanced	208.43	217.11†	- 2.24	2.91
-do- Accum	239.71	249.69†	- 2.57	2.91
Overseas Equity	208.52	217.20	- 2.19	1.11
-do- Accum	217.82	226.88	- 2.30	1.11
Oseas Smllr Cos	133.49	139.05	- 0.86	0.96
-do- Accum	139.94	145.77	- 1.00	0.95
Pacific	259.43	270.23	- 2.36	1.41
-do- Accum	286.66	298.60	- 2.61	1.41
Recovery	£20.45	£21.31	-20.26	3.10
-do- Accum	£21.98	£22.89	-21.77	3.10
UK Index	168.75	175.78	- 2.04	3.42
-do- Accum	212.30	221.14	- 2.57	3.42
UK Small Cos	121.61	126.67	- 0.91	2.80
-do- Accum	131.95	137.44	- 0.99	2.80
US Smllr Cos	58.14	60.56	- 1.00	0.56
-do- Accum	59.47	61.95	- 1.02	0.56
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	56.43	59.67	- 0.43	2.73
Equity Trust	69.62	73.62	- 0.84	2.99
Equity Strategy	80.74	85.38	- 0.93	2.73
European Opps	98.05	103.69	- 0.43	0.30
UK Smaller Cos	71.79	75.92	- 0.25	1.08
Maximum Inc	99.69	102.27	+ 0.02	6.87
Japanese	79.95	84.55	- 1.06	.
Asia Pacific	124.71	131.88	- 0.52	3.08
American	122.52	129.56	- 2.42	0.53
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	32.15	32.15		6.178
UK General Inc	57.17	60.98	- 0.76	2.60
-do- Accum	75.13	80.14	- 0.99	2.60
Intl Income	283.60	302.60†	- 2.00	1.56
-do- Accum	495.60	528.60†	- 3.50	1.56
European	88.75	94.00	- 1.22	1.87
Japan	69.56	74.16†	- 0.28	0.77
American	85.40	90.47	- 1.57	2.40
Far East	87.65	93.50	- 0.09	2.40
Ethical Inc	33.66	35.99	- 0.17	3.26
UK Blue Chip Inc	37.29	39.78	- 0.54	4.07
High Inc Inc	38.31	40.87†	- 0.39	3.52
UK Global Inc	44.37	47.44	- 0.52	1.73
Wwide Tact	76.96	82.31	- 0.74	2.06
Europa 2000 Tact	58.69	62.33	- 0.75	2.61
Technology	135.27	144.29†	- 3.16	0.07
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	426.60	456.70	- 5.60	2.90
American	318.70	338.40	- 7.10	0.62
Pacific	406.40	434.70	- 4.80	0.41
European	590.50	631.60	- 7.70	1.31
Worldwide	96.77	103.50	- 1.80	0.55
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	298.00	314.90†	- 3.50	2.34
-do- Accum	383.10	407.60†	- 4.60	2.34
UK Sir Co Eq Inc	228.40	243.00†	- 2.30	1.59
-do- Accum	279.30	297.20†	- 2.90	1.59
Select Opptny Inc	76.96	82.30	- 1.20	2.34
Income Plus Inc	78.02	83.00	- 0.93	3.30
European Inc	375.50	399.50	- 6.40	1.43
-do- Accum	427.70	455.70	- 7.40	1.43
Far Eastern Inc	176.40	187.70	- 1.60	1.03
-do- Accum	202.70	215.70	- 2.90	1.03
Japanese Inc	63.35	67.40	- 0.58	
Nth American Inc	286.70	305.10	- 6.10	0.21
-do- Accum	317.00	337.30	- 6.70	0.21

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	218.50	232.50†	- 3.30	0.57
Wwide Venture Inc	86.40	91.92	- 1.51	0.79
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	404.90	431.80	- 3.20	2.58
-do- Accum	608.20	648.60	- 4.80	2.58
UK High Inc	196.10	209.10	- 2.80	3.47
-do- Accum	293.97	313.40	- 2.90	3.47
Europe Inc	414.30	441.80	- 1.30	0.35
Nth Amer Inc	273.80	291.80	- 7.10	.
Global Inc	235.70	251.40	- 1.80	0.38
Global Acc	253.90	270.80	- 2.08	0.38
UK Spec Sits Inc	112.60	120.10	- 0.80	3.60
South East Asia	224.40	239.30	- 1.10	0.55
Cash Trust Inc	100.20	100.20		5.59
UK Smllr Cos Inc	111.20	118.60	- 0.20	2.80
-do- Accum	115.00	122.70	- 0.20	2.82
Intl Bond Inc	100.29	105.40	- 0.40	5.26
SEMPER EADEM FUND MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 264 010				
Sector Recovery	152.60	160.38	- 1.20	4.15
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Europa	142.80	150.30	- 1.00	0.90
Nth American	128.88	135.60	- 2.70	0.07
Intl Bond & Conv	128.60	135.60†	- 0.40	6.35
Packed Pension (E)	218.40	232.70†	...	2.87
Smaller Cos	94.78	99.77†	- 1.13	1.89
UK General	147.50	165.30†	- 2.60	2.58
Far Eastern	98.52	103.70	- 0.98	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6228				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	116.92	...	- 3.56	...
Asiac ‡	62.35	...	- 0.57	...
European ‡	142.42	...	- 2.74	0.30
Global Bond ‡	98.60	...	- 0.79	8.17
Investment Trust ‡	104.02	...	- 0.57	2.07
Preferred Income ‡	100.49	...	- 0.67	5.86
Samurai ‡	54.33	...	- 0.86	...
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.12	...	+ 0.02	6.00
UK Growth ‡	183.97	...	- 0.77	2.49
Tai Pan ‡	98.48	...	- 1.99	...
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	101.91	...	- 0.32	2.34
UK Equity Inc ‡	186.94	...	- 0.39	5.84
Glob Gwth PEP	68.28	72.63	- 1.19	1.34
Pref Inc PEP #	101.50	107.40	- 0.80	3.13
Inv Trust PEP	51.96	55.27	- 0.46	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	392.20	415.00	- 2.70	.
Canadian	72.26	78.45	+ 0.24	0.47
Capital	137.70	147.40	- 1.30	1.66
Cash	181.20	181.20	+ 0.03	6.00
European	143.60	151.80†	- 0.80	0.59
Far Eastern	161.00	170.40	- 1.70	.
Growth	149.70	158.30	- 1.20	1.93
Income	133.50	147.20	- 1.20	5.13
Magnum	146.90	157.20†	- 2.80	1.70
Smllr Secs	459.70	486.40	+ 1.96	0.01
Thoroughbred	171.50	183.70	- 1.80	1.43
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Capital Reliance	55.88	59.14	- 0.71	7.80
Ethical	69.68	74.92	- 1.24	0.59
European Growth	77.30	82.38	- 1.37	1.09
Income	56.83	61.10†	- 0.59	4.30
Intl Growth	106.10	113.10	- 1.50	1.60
Managed	88.95	94.87	- 1.07	2.30
UK Growth	70.97	78.90	- 0.82	1.50
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	44.21	44.44	- 0.40	1.76
Global Advtg Acc	47.70	47.94	- 0.40	1.76
Income Advtg Inc	34.21	34.39†	- 0.40	3.54
Income Advtg Acc	38.97	39.17	- 0.40	3.54
UK Equity Gth Acc	80.08	84.89	- 0.80	1.40
Premier Inc Inc	49.57	52.18†	- 0.20	7.14
Premier Inc Acc	50.55	53.21	- 0.20	7.14
Managed Acc	57.70	61.12	- 0.50	1.49
UK Eq Ht Inc Inc	39.24	41.60	- 0.50	3.96
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	50.27	53.29	- 0.70	3.96
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Eqn Acc	70.88	75.32	- 0.70	2.21
UK Equity Gen Inc	51.66	54.89	- 0.50	2.21
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	32.36	34.23	- 0.10	6.13
Deeas Lrg Co Acc	350.60	380.50	- 1.69	1.73
Nth American Acc	54.15	57.54	- 0.89	.
Pacific Basin	44.39	47.67	- 0.20	0.78
European Acc	56.24	59.76	- 0.10	1.12
Japan Acc	28.36	30.14	+ 0.10	...
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NCS)	4.274	4.532	...	1.79
US Eqts (US$)	3.033	3.217	...	0.99
Far East Eqts (yen)	256.80	271.90		..
FT Europe	143.20	152.10	...	1.28
FT N Amer (US$)	2.325	2.464	.	0.44
FT Japan (yen)	226.10	240.10	..	...
FT Asia ExJap (US$)	2.653	2.818	. .	0.67
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	453.20	481.00	- 8.19	.
British #	1149.80	1216.50	-12.80	3.28
Emrging Mkts	132.90	141.80	- 0.30	0.45
European	579.00	617.20	- 4.70	0.52
Japan	138.60	147.30	- 1.80	.
New Pacific	396.80	422.60	- 1.70	1.56
-do- Accum	423.00	450.50	- 1.80	1.56
Inv Trust Acc	278.40	295.00	- 3.40	0.83
Mngd Equity	190.70	201.80	- 2.30	1.69
Mngd Cash	96.33	96.33	+ 0.01	6.22
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389				
Equity	955.89	1022.00	- 9.00	2.34
North America	169.50	178.10	- 0.20	
Far East	156.20	167.10	- 0.30	
Wwide Bond	61.97	65.76	+ 0.16	5.61
European	113.60	121.50		1.44
Equity Income #	99.45	106.40†	- 1.00	5.74
Portfolio	97.99	104.80	- 0.50	1.95
UK Leading Cos	70.15	74.83	- 0.69	3.22
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	71.31	76.27	- 0.24	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Allianz UT	22.67	24.12†	- 0.20	1.01
European	43.30	46.07†	- 0.96	0.84
High Income	33.97	36.14	- 0.32	4.17
Japan	37.15	39.53†	- 0.39	0.01
Managed Assets	134.89	144.27	- 1.61	2.57
North American	38.59	41.06†	- 0.81	0.32
Smlr Co's Inc	31.91	33.85	- 0.20	2.17
Smlr Co's Acc	34.50	36.71†	- 0.22	2.11
UK Growth Inc	59.76	63.58	- 0.68	2.78
UK Growth Acc	65.65	69.85†	- 0.75	2.78
UK Income	42.43	45.38†	- 0.57	3.44
Worldwide Gth	38.20	40.65†	- 0.57	0.62
Confederation				
Canadian Exmpt	64.83	66.82	- 1.23	1.59
European Exmpt	89.40	92.17	- 1.79	1.92
Pacific Exmpt	62.13	64.08	- 0.53	1.10
US Exmpt	90.56	93.37	- 1.68	1.44
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	53.68	57.11	- 0.36	
Cap Protector Inc	42.99	45.73	- 0.28	2.82
UK Income Inc	54.93	58.44	- 0.63	3.24
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	34.20	36.38	- 0.21	5.14
Mngd High Yld Inc	83.32	88.64†	- 0.78	4.46
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	79.08	84.14†	- 0.88	3.33
UK Smaller Cos	37.09	39.46	- 0.16	1.71
Pacific Gth Port	49.32	52.47	- 0.55	0.78
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	260.16	275.30	- 5.39	..
-do- Accum	286.56	303.23	- 5.94	
Brit Growth	107.86	114.14	- 1.80	1.98
-do- Accum	132.19	139.88	- 1.97	1.98
European	114.07	120.71	- 2.22	...
-do- Accum	121.41	128.48	- 2.36	...
Extra Income	199.16	210.76	- 2.07	3.84
-do- Accum	350.97	371.40	- 3.68	3.84
Smaller Cos	78.97	83.57	- 0.81	0.98
-do- Accum	89.76	94.98	- 0.70	0.98
General	320.28	338.92	- 4.53	2.32
-do- Accum	671.01	710.07	- 9.49	2.32
Premier Income	52.02	54.19	- 0.16	6.55
-do- Accum	123.73	128.88	- 0.40	6.55
Income	344.17	364.21†	- 3.96	3.54
-do- Accum	781.60	827.18†	- 9.01	3.54
Pacific	416.92	441.18	- 2.56	...
-do- Accum	438.08	463.57	- 2.69	...
International	592.49	626.98	- 8.56	...
-do- Accum	780.63	826.06	-11.28	...
Nat Resources	175.39	185.60	- 2.12	..
Sized Opps	120.57	127.58	- 1.69	1.81
-do- Accum	155.92	165.00	- 2.17	1.81
Environmental Inv	69.39	73.42	- 0.93	1.45
Selector	67.65	71.59†	- 0.85	1.53
-do- Accum	77.75	82.27†	- 0.98	1.53
High Income	65.63	69.45†	- 0.83	4.38
-do- Accum	87.40	92.49†	- 0.84	4.38
Intl Income	63.57	67.27	- 0.42	6.13
-do- Accum	81.40	86.14	- 0.54	5.13
Selector Income	64.00	67.72	- 0.54	4.20
-do- Accum	78.25	82.81	- 0.68	4.20
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 667 1016				
British	364.05	383.21	- 5.65	2.77
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	220.87	236.22	- 2.83	2.31
Glob Balncd Inc	184.84	196.83	- 2.30	3.69
Value Tst Inc	127.80	136.68†	- 2.01	2.19
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3801				
Dresdner Eur Bd	45.52	47.35	- 0.16	6.89
European Growth	300.66	314.82	- 4.82	0.40
Exempt	604.74	620.71	- 3.30	2.70
Global Em Mkts	78.17	81.85	- 0.69	0.49
Japan Tst	87.45	85.28	- 1.47	.
Little Dragons	91.06	95.35	- 0.28	.
Nth Amer Gwth	274.51	287.44	- 6.27	0.50
Oriental Income #	45.71	47.86	- 0.45	2.30
Preference	129.79	135.90	- 0.62	6.69
Tiger	282.84	296.16	- 1.90	...
UK Blue Chip	69.72	73.00	- 1.16	1.80
UK Growth	579.02	606.30	- 8.80	2.10
UK High Yield #	107.13	112.17	- 1.17	4.59
UK Mid-Cap	273.33	286.20	- 2.48	2.29
UK Smlr Cos	115.87	121.43	- 0.76	1.00
UK Smlr Cos Div #	87.73	91.86	- 0.21	5.30
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 338				
UK Equity Income	106.85	112.82	- 0.98	2.56
UK Equity Growth	94.27	100.29	- 0.82	2.86
European	72.72	77.36	- 1.57	1.47
Nth American	83.04	88.34†	- 0.70	0.28
Far Eastern	75.02	79.81†	- 0.50	0.98
Money	88.48	88.48	+ 0.01	5.61
Fixed Interest	77.73	82.69	- 0.22	5.71
Index Linked Gilt	70.42	74.92	- 0.22	1.25
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	104.83	104.83	- 0.41	6.69
UK Index Tracking Tst	118.40	118.40	- 0.69	2.92
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	25.62	26.98		
Pacific Basin	44.25	46.57		
Global Bond (US$)	0.9168	0.9547		
Penny Share	43.66	45.95		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Challenger	100.30	103.00†	- 4.80	2.80
Short Dtd Gilt	121.60	123.20	- 0.20	.
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7678	0.7779	-0.0007	.
Gilt Income	53.83	55.19†	- 0.24	6.60
Gilt Growth	77.34	80.49	- 0.52	
Sterling Bond	50.05	51.91†	- 0.18	6.90
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	52.11	55.39	- 0.41	1.82
UK Stockmarket	88.34	93.97	- 0.57	2.44

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Bid Charge.

هكذا من الأصل

Losses trimmed in nervous trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2937½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2840¾	-34¾	4.5	10.5
654	413	Abbey Nat	629	+10	3.8	12.6
388	250	Allied Irish	350	-7	4.1	10.2
303	198	Aus New Z	298	-4	5.3	
4425	2531¼	Bank America	4087½	-68¾		
307½	191½	Bank Scotland	277	-7½	2.8	12.3
812½	567½	Barclays	751	-5	3.7	10.2
488	286	Bk of Ireland†	471	-7	3.8	9.4
525	418	Cater Allen†	436	-1	8.8	7.2
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4225	-68¾		
340½	216½	Close Bros	322	-1	3.4	14.3
£162¾	£129¼	Commerzbk	£152¾	+25	3.6	
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1253¾	+9¾	0.4	
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3068¾	-18¾	2.4	
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	584¾	-3¾	8.1	7.8
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1478½	+13¾	0.4	
488	385	Gerrard Nat	453		6.2	14.8
253	180	Hambros†	196	-3	4.8	
1019	589	HSBC	987	+1	3.6	12.8
994	578	HSBC Hk	958½	+2½	3.7	12.5
403	238	Irish Perm	403	+2	3.0	9.3
463	353	Joseph (L)†	458		5.1	25.6
145	85	King Shaxson	140	+1	8.3	10.6
895	530	Lloyds	830	-9	4.1	12.7
592	479	Nat Aust Bk	587	-25	7.0	
697	454	Nat West	649	+19½	4.4	10.1
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2980		8.6	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	59	+7	2.1	23.6
628½	373½	Ryl Bk Scott	568	-17	3.8	12.8
1478	906¾	Schroders	1318	-17	1.3	18.8
1180	823¾	Schroders NV	1113	-15	1.8	15.9
111	81	Singer & Fried	109	-½	4.2	11.3
625	246	Stand Chart	545	-19	2.1	13.7
417	217	TSB	392	-3	3.7	13.6
127	70	Union	100		3.6	
£145¼	904¾	Wells Fargo	£138¾	-180	2.2	...
270	211	Westpac	265½	-¼	5.1	...
295	200	Wintrust	275		5.4	15.5

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
265	143	Ascot Hldgs	262	-1		0.5
731	487	Bass†	692½	-18½	4.1	...
451	239	Boddington	451	+1	2.5	23.2
192	137	Burtonwd Brwt	174½	-1½	3.9	16.9
191	137	Eldridge P 'A'	189	-1	3.1	...
433	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	416	..	2.6	17.7
545	402	Greenalls Grp	546	+1	3.3	
658	468	Greene King	624		2.9	16.6
297	240	Hardy Hanson	286	..	4.5	
160	150	Heavitree	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3106	-3	2.2	16.6
347	279	Mansfield†	314	-2	2.1	15.8
321	265	Marston Thomp†	306	..	3.0	14.4
543	391½	Morland†	534		2.8	
8¾	6¾	Paramount†	6½	-¼	4.2	10.4
703	307	Regent Inns	660	-4	1.3	26.0
2343¾	1287½	SA Breweries†	2343¾		1.5	31.6
640	482	Scot & New	602	-4	3.9	16.0
337	230	Scot & New P/P	330		..	
218	173	Tom Cobleigh	203	-1	1.7	32.9
309	211	Vaux Group	253	+2	5.2	12.9
640	449	Wetherspoon JD	635	-3	1.6	25.8
679	521	Whitbread†	664	-4	3.9	16.4
585	483	Wolvrhmptn D	577	+4	3.4	
310	186	Yates Bros	303	..	1.3	26.8
475	425	Young 'A'	436		4.3	17.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	125	Abbey	140		4.7	9.1
208	143	Allen†	207	+2	3.6	15.4
101	54½	Amec†	89	-4	4.2	18.7
275	133	Andrews Sykes	258	+3	..	
195	137¾	Ashtead	169	+2	1.8	16.7
105	30	Avonside	34		12.1	5.4
38	23	Bailey (Ben) Con	25		5.2	6.1
41¼	30¾	Barcom	35	-2	1.1	
242	158	Barratt Devs	240	+2	3.9	15.0
175½	122	Beazer Homes	172	..	4.3	12.4
268	180	Bellway	251	-1	3.9	11.8

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	88¾	ABI Leis†	93		5.8	9.5
585	440	Adams & Harvey†	440	-15	5.6	5.8
21	13	Alexanders	16	-1	5.5	28.3
113	88	Appleyard	93		8.1	10.0
4¾	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	39.5
623	518	BSS Group†	520	-10	4.7	14.9
38	31	Bandt	38			
24½	15½	Bearing Power†	16½		9.5	
28	18	Bogod 'A'	26		3.4	9.2
483	345	Booker	431		3.9	16.6
21	10½	Bridgend Grp†	17	-½	1.5	
96	78	Brit Fittings	81	-1	4.9	12.3
270	215	Caffyns†	245		5.9	16.9
88	54	Central Mtr	75		4.6	20.4
61	35	Cook (DC)	57		3.8	8.3
320½	220	Cowie	294		4.0	12.7
155	125	Dag Motors	126		7.1	10.4
598	503	Denmans El	509		1.9	11.1
501	375¼	Diploma†	391	+2	4.6	
370	238	Electrocomponts†	350	-2	2.1	23.8
266	153	Eurodis Elec	263	-2	2.0	18.2
235	64	Eurodollar	70	-2	14.6	4.0
130	87	European Mtr	95	-1	6.8	8.2
449	280	Evans Halshaw	286		6.8	8.9
732	512	Farnell Elec	708	-6	1.7	20.8
72	48	Fife Indmar	66		6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	17½		5.9	7.7
37	16	Glenchewton	34½	-1	1.1	..
108	61	Gowrings	86		3.3	14.3
218	148	Harris (Philip)†	216		4.3	13.7
206	142	Headlam	205		2.6	18.0
554	258	Henlys	487		2.5	18.5
137	81	Holders Tech	133	-1	5.6	25.3
163	88	ISA Intl	153		1.3	16.7
430	200	Inchcape†	230	+1	8.2	20.9
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	60		1.8	11.4
187	142	Kwik-Fit	167	-4	3.4	14.3
358¼	264¾	Lex Service	304	-1	5.9	16.2
195	146	Lookers	149		6.4	8.2
22	9	Malaya Grp	12	+½	5.0	16.2
9¾	5	Middlesex	8½		0.7	19.5
71	36	Midstates	38			5.4
534	330	Norbain†	485	-5	1.9	16.7
268	78	Northamber	254	-4	0.9	20.3
155	135	PCT	137		7.0	9.8
283	225	Pendragon	272	-1	3.9	14.2
166	123	Perry Gp	146	-1	6.5	11.0
146	126	Quicks Group	134	-4	5.4	11.4
198	160	REA	185		2.7	22.0
3¾	2½	Reece	2¾			
73	49	Ranson	56		2.8	11.4
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3	-½		
63½	37½	SEP Ind	54½	-1½	3.7	
17½	8½	Saltire	12	-½		8.8
74½	38	TLS	70	-1	3.3	11.9
266	226	Time Products†	248	-1	4.7	14.5
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273		2.6	17.3
325	240	Wholesale Ftgs	325		4.5	20.3
80	54½	Wilshaw†	55½	-¼	1.8	13.3
90	56½	Wyko	75	-1	2.1	74.6
118	68	Young (H)	111	-2	4.4	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

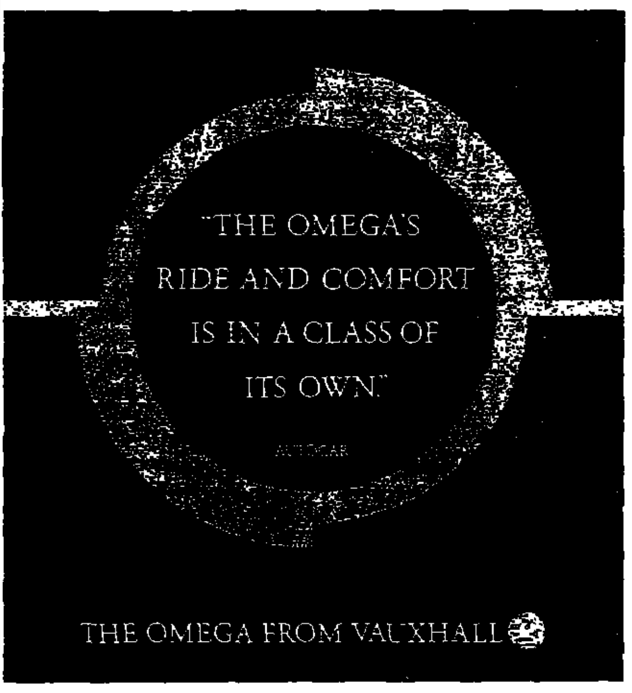
1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175	116	Adwest	118	-1	8.3	9.5
353	235	Antofagasta	293		1.9	13.8
940	728¼	Broken Hill	903	-10	2.7	20.9
348	281	BTR	316		5.5	13.7
582	405	BAT†	544	-3	5.2	12.4
270½	144	Berisford Intl	187		2.0	..
131	71	Bibby (J)†	115		6.2	9.3
51½	40½	Brierley Inv	49½	-¼	8.7	2.7
948	743	Charter	815		3.8	13.2
314	185	Cookson	285	-2½	3.2	18.1
153	100	Grampian Hdg	134		5.5	15.1
243¾	180¾	Hanson†	185	+½	8.1	10.1
162½	135	Harrison Crsfld	147	+2	7.7	15.8
378¾	200¾	Hutch Whamp	372¾	-2¾	2.1	19.9
584½	341¾	Jardine Math	429¾	+5¼	3.8	8.5
37	26	Jourdan (T)†	27		5.8	7.3
178	134	Lonrho	177	+3	3.2	24.4
173	113	McLeod Russel†	166		4.8	
44	34	Porter Chadburn	41	..		14.0
801	430	Powell Duffryn†	445	-3	7.0	18.3
152	123	Ropner	145	-1	7.1	10.0

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
30	11½	Locker (T) A	20	+1	2.8	15.4
45	29	ML Hldgs†	38	+1	4.3	12.4
39	18	MS Intl	36		2.1	
234	137	Mang Bronze	234		2.7	11.6
476	378	McKechnie†	388	-5	5.2	11.9
95	61	Meggitt	86	-1	5.7	23.1
126	81¾	Metalrax	114		4.1	18.3
138	86	Metsec	98		4.0	20.7
825	487	Molins	775		2.8	13.5
415	293	Morgan Crble	386		4.3	16.9
916	178	Morris Ashby†	271	-2	3.2	14.1
63	32	Neepsend†	53		3.8	11.2
70	41	Neotronics	43		4.9	8.8
41½	12	OMI Ind	14½		6.5	
391	235	Powerscreen†	385		2.9	13.5
15½	4	Prospect Inds	4½		19.4	..
75	60	Radiant Metal	65			
66	41	Ransomes	63	-1		
86	61	Record	65		6.9	13.0
407	235½	Renishaw	383	-3	2.1	23.9
297	180	Renold†	243½	-6½	2.7	13.8
58	37	Richards (Leics)	37		7.6	12.9
89	68	Richardson West	78		5.6	12.8
194¾	148	Rolls-Royce†	173	-2	3.6	24.8
180	158½	Rotork	167		3.7	15.9
183	143	Rubicon	173	..	3.8	16.6
114	67	Senior Eng	94	..	4.6	33.2
325	263	Servomex	304	...	2.7	22.6
156	49	[illegible]	155		1.2	28.8
795	498	Siebe	786	-16	2.1	21.1
99	67	Simon Eng	78	-2		
177	79	[illegible]	180	-2	1.8	11.5
1471½	1094¾	SKF 'B'	1196¾	-43¾	3.5	11.1
677½	423	Smiths Inds†	632	-13	2.8	30.1
612	431	Spirax-Sarco	596¼	-½	2.5	18.8
293	227	Sterling Ind	291	-1	3.4	14.0
463	328	TI	429	+2	3.8	20.1
102	92	Tinsley (E)	99		7.3	13.4
101	51	TransTec†	48		2.0	
184	127	Triplex Lloyd†	138	..	6.3	10.3
18	14	Utd Inds▼	15½		3.0	12.4
15½	5	Verson	10¾	..		..
283	162	Vickers	253	-2	2.7	30.4
14½	8½	Villers Grp	12			

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
46½	29½	Baring Em Eu	37¼	-¾		
364	300	Baring Tribne	360	-3	2.3	
96	84½	Br Assets†	91½	-1	6.2	
97½	83	Br Empire Sec	92½	-1	1.4	
37½	25	Br Empire Wts	33½	-1		
233	194	Br Inv†	225	-2	1.9	
101	66	BradMan	66	-2¾		
266½	211	Brunner	257	-2	2.8	
136	115	BZW Conv†	129	-½	7.6	
509	318	Candover	495	-7	3.2	
53	34½	Central Euro Grth	39½		1.4	
185	144	China & Eastern	174	-1	2.6	
188	161	Cont Asset	178½	-2	2.1	
80	75	Dunne Inv Inc	75		13.3	
345	278	Derby Cap	335	-5	..	
166	148	Derby Inc	158		14.4	
736	617	Dunedin Inc G	696	-9	4.8	
91	73	Dunedin Japan	85	-1		
333	296	Dunedin Smlr	315½	-1½	3.6	
42	18	Dunedin Wts	24	-½		
807	678	Dunedin Wwide†	767	-10	1.5	
109½	82¾	Edin Dragon	100	-1		
43½	21½	Edinburgh Inds	23¾	-½		
339	281	Edinburgh	313½	-2½	3.8	
162	127	EFM Japan	160			
376	307	Electra Inv	361	-1½	2.6	
220	180	Electric Gen	216	-3	1.9	
145	108	English Scot	142	-2		
350	273	European Assel	333	-1½	1.9	
199	147½	Fidelity Euro Val	192	-1	0.2	
83	62¾	Fidelity Jap Val	73½	-¼	0.2	
109	87	Fidelity Spec Valt	104	-1	0.6	
175	149	Finsbury 'A'	171½	-½	3.5	
80	62	First Spanish	77		0.4	
338	267	Fleming Amer	288	-3	0.7	
74	51½	Fleming Chinese	53½	-1	1.2	
39	20	Fleming Ch Wts	26	-½		
254	198	Fleming Claver	250	-1	2.9	
357	288½	Fleming Cont	342	-1	1.2	
158	125	Fleming Em Mkts	142½	-1		
258	199	Fleming Ent	249	-1	2.8	
360	278½	Fleming F East	334½	-½	0.6	
402	327	Fleming Fledg	397	-1	0.9	
105	90	Fleming Hi Inct	97½	-½	5.9	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
146	118	Inv Cap	136½	-2½	4.9	
121	78	Intl Biotech	100	-2	1.2	
57	20	Intl Wts	34	-2		
99	74	INVESCO Asia	93½	-1		
72	51	INVESCO Bhst	61	-1	17.2	
138	88	INVESCO Eng Int†	138		8.7	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	134	+2		
61	49	INVESCO Tokyo	54½			
99	82	J Fry 2nd Ut	89	-1½	9.4	
94	80	J Fry Euro U	81		6.8	
237	174	JF Fledg Jap	233	-1		
128	99	Jupiter Intl Grn	127		3.3	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
185	118	BS Group	130	+4	2.9	17.8
168	111	Baldwin	153	-1	3.6	12.3
235	197	Barr & Wall	218	-1	6.3	11.5
394	202	Bluebird Toys	330	-4	3.2	10.4
480	333	Boosey Hwks	478		1.6	26.2
76	42	Bts for the Boys†	66	-1	3.1	17.3
3¼	1¼	Brent Walker	1½			
46	33	Burndene	38	-1	6.3	12.9
26½	5½	Castell Plc	8½		5.9	
350	248	Chrysalis	350		1.0	
97	70½	City Centre Rest	93½	-1½	2.7	18.1
474	305	Compass Gp	470	-1	2.0	
208	201	Eurocamp	205	-4	6.5	9.6
250	118	Euro Disney	165			


"THE OMEGA'S RIDE AND COMFORT IS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN."
AUTOCAR
THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
249	194	Klwrt Chrt	242	-1	2.8	
121	95½	Klwrt E Mkt	111	-1¼		
131	110	Klwrt End	131			
84½	73	Klwrt Euro Prvt	80½	-½	3.6	
27½	21	Klwrt Euro Wts	22¾	-½		
91	74	Klwrt H Inct	78		13.8	
273	213	Klwrt O'seas	266	-3	1.6	
140	111	Klwrt Smlr	136	-1	2.2	
605¼	427¾	Korea-Euro	550¾	-18	0.1	
125½	71	Latin American	94¼	-1½		
985	718	Law Debenture	936	-8	2.8	
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	100	-1		
29½	26	Lloyds Sm Div	26½		17.5	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
181	93	Euro Leisure	170			5.1
118½	56	First Choice	64		7.1	
363	262	First Leisure	358	-1	2.5	21.3
356	224½	Forte	328½	-4½	2.9	37.4
175	133	Friendly Hotels†	150		4.8	17.6
709	476	Granada	629	-2	2.4	15.0
208	108	Groupe Chez Gn	208	+6	1.4	24.7
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	31	-1	5.2	
168	96	Hornby	157	+9	4.0	13.5
231¾	134	Jurys Hotel	231¼	-½	3.3	14.8
35½	14¾	Kunick	23¾		3.3	
443	264	London Clubs†	412	-5	4.2	14.7
187½	122	Ladbroke	153	-½	4.9	46.5
64	29	Magnolia	29		0.4	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
158	112	Brewin Dolphin	153	-2	4.9	15.9
719	625	Caledonia†	718	+1	3.0	22.3
2400	1900	Camellia	2000		2.3	18.4
22½	13	Carlisle	18½		1.7	19.7
217	142	Cattles	212		3.6	18.7
35	16	Christie	24	..		
17½	13½	EFG	16	-½	3.9	3.2
98	61	EFT Group	92		2.5	16.6
775	653	EFM	658	-5	4.6	15.4
186	109	Exco	110		6.8	5.6
305	161	Gartmore	279	-1	2.5	24.2
379	220	Govett	234	-3	8.0	3.8
1272	963	Henderson Adt	1155	-3	4.9	23.6
266	167½	Invesco	248	-6	2.5	17.1
49	41	Investment Co	41		7.1	12.3
234	198	Ivory Sime	232½		4.2	17.1
248¾	164½	Jardine Strat	186	-1¾	5.1	6.0
144	85	Johnson Fry	114	..	4.4	8.0
217	131	Lon Forfaiting	215	-2	5.5	15.3
171	116	Lon Scot Bk	170		3.2	19.8
182	146	Man ED & F†	147	-½	8.2	7.5
1353	953	M & G	1260	-3	3.2	
346	224	MAI	300½	-2	3.6	14.9
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf†	112½	-1	6.6	
966	680	MAM	866	-12	4.8	19.1
130	90	Nat Home Loan†	102	-1	1.2	3.5
1850	1150	Perpetual†	1843	-2	2.7	
852	515	Provident	814		3.8	17.8
330	245	Rathbone Bros	327	+2	3.6	16.8
41½	24½	Rutland Tst	39		4.2	17.0
355	281	S & U	289	-2	5.6	8.5
133	105	SJP Capital†	112		3.3	21.2
525¼	305¼	Save Pacific	491	-1½	2.5	18.3
78	42	Tenty Law	43	-1	7.3	
371	302	Trancatlantic	349	-2	5.0	23.4
28	4½	Trio Hldgs	4½	-½	2.8	7.4
26	19	Western Selectn	23		1.4	

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2100	425	Brit Biotech	1690	-30		..
345	103	Cantab Pharms	338			
614	238½	Celltech	576	-12		
375	92½	Chiroscience	334	-5		
188	31	Cortecs	153	-9		
268	103	Fisons	264		1.2	
912½	587	Glaxo Wellcome	878	-7	4.3	20.1
294	162	Medeva	264	+1	1.7	17.0
719	279	Scotia	525	-33	..	
714	444	SmithKBeech†	664	-7	2.5	19.7
703	416	Smithkline Unst	654½	-13½	2.6	19.4
1337½	840	Zeneca	1218	-21¼	2.9	24.8

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
269¾	193	Frost Group†	195	-2	4.1	16.4
81	46	Gieves	78		3.2	17.6
225	112	Goldsmiths Gp	225	+2	1.9	20.4
695	508	GUS	668	-5	2.9	17.5
350	179	Hamleys	347	-2	2.8	15.5
73	25	Hampden Grp	73		2.6	14.1
176	125	Hse of Fraser	167	+1	4.1	21.5
83	57	Hughes (TJ)†	60		6.5	13.3
168	95	Innovations	136		1.7	68.9
534	229	JJB Sports	530		1.4	24.7
544	379	Kingfisher	530	+3	3.6	17.7
155	100	Kingsbury Grp	156	+2	1.9	21.8
365	208	Liberty	303		3.0	28.3
305	184	Lloyds Chem	261	-5	4.9	9.8
165	108	MFI	161½	+1½	3.3	21.2
457	371	Marks Spencer†	431	-8	3.0	18.6
645	500	Menzies (John)	628	-1	2.6	14.1
618	338	Moss Bros	618	+15	2.8	18.0
489	252	Next†	461	-7	2.7	25.4
54	37	OEM	40			
66	34	Oliver (G)	57	2	2.2	63.5
404	243	Oriflame Intl	404	+3	3.5	16.0
93	70	Partridge Fine	70	-1	5.9	9.6
155	47	QS Hldgs	47		13.8	12.9
17½	5¾	Rhino Grp	14¾	-1		
193	113	Rosebys	192		3.2	22.2
120½	95½	Sears	100½		4.9	16.0
24	11½	Signet Group	15½	-½		
484	321	Smith WH	425	+1	4.6	15.0
950	638	Sothebys	875	-10	1.8	
349	209	Storehouse†	337	-3	2.4	20.8
140	112	Stylo	120		4.9	10.3
203	143	T & S Stores	183		4.6	11.6
165	98	Tie Rack†	164	-1	2.1	17.2
4½	1	Upton & South	2¾	-¼		
598	424	Vendome†	565	+4	2.2	20.5
35	14	WEW Group†	16		5.5	9.5
67	35	Wld of Leather	53		3.5	64.1
195	155	Wyevale	195	..	3.3	17.4

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq†	515	-6	5.7	20.7
500	390	Bulmer (HP)	498		3.1	16.6
146	98	Burn Stewart	137½	-1½	4.5	29.6
461½	352	Grand Met	438	-7	4.3	15.1
536	404	Guinness	456	-1	3.9	14.2
445	324	Highland Distr†	324	-5	3.0	14.7
217	175	Macallan-Glen	189	-1	0.9	41.9
710	600	Marstn Mrln 'A'†	625		2.2	17.6
681	532	Matthew Clark	670	+8	3.8	
140	61	Merrydown Wt	118		2.1	

WATER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
641	487¾	North West▼	587	+7	5.6	7.6
1175	678	Northumbrian†	1168		3.2	9.1
685	475	Severn Trent	676	+2	5.6	8.0
2356	1855	South Staffs†	2353	...	3.8	13.7
555	458	South West†	514	+1	6.8	7.2
731	517	Southern	665	-1	5.3	7.8
575	456	Thames†	562	+1	5.8	7.7
800	592¼	Welsh†	743	+5	7.1	8.9
109¾	100½	Welsh Cm Pf	108¼	-1	9.4	
361	250¼	Wessex	339	+1	5.2	7.1
677½	472	Yorkshire†	593	-7	6.0	7.8

Source: Ftostat

⊕ USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

The fourth dimension

If Channel 4 were really bold, it would hold a Jewish Christmas. In its search for alternative perspectives, it has come up with "Christmas in New York", "Black Christmas" and this year, "Beastly Christmas" — animal rights. So why ignore the obvious alternative? Not for lack of material, surely. Nor for lack of interested viewers. There are plenty of people, Jewish and otherwise, who do not mind celebrating the midwinter solstice free from hymns to a virgin birth.

But Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, is Jewish. So "Jews at Xmas" would look like special pleading, just as much as "Beastly Xmas" would be impossible if the chief executive were vegetarian. And Mr Grade happens to excel at special pleading. There have been few campaigns in broadcasting as high-profile as his for the abolition of the funding formula which has forced Channel 4 to pay £50 million or more a year to the ITV companies.

But within the intricate Broadcasting Bill published last week, one of the few clear things is that the loathed formula will remain. Only considerable parliamentary support for Channel 4 can abolish it now.

All the new Bill does is allow the possibility of altering the funding formula on a yearly basis. A share of any "excess" advertising revenue earned by Channel 4 will have to go to ITV companies, just as ITV will retain the theoretical duty to support the newer channel if advertising should run thin.

Last week the ITV companies issued a passionate, if belated, public statement of their belief that neither their own channel nor Channel 4 can be sure of continuing to prosper when Channel 5 and digital television arrive. Almost at the same time, there has been a hurt and angry outcry from two ITV stalwarts that Channel 4 has gone too far to claim the high moral ground and disdain filthy commerce. Melvyn Bragg and Steve Morrison have accused Grade of crying quality while courting large audiences with cheap American imports.

Untrue, say Grade and John Willis, Channel 4's director of programmes. Each side throws statistics and programme names at the other to the point where, as Roger Bolton on Channel 4's *Right to Reply* moaned last week: "It's a nightmare to chair this discussion." He's right. It's no more possible to answer the question "Has Channel 4 lost its way?" than to prove that comedies aren't as funny as they used to be.

BRENDA MADDOX

All I know is that Channel 4 is my choice when I switch on the set — and also that I switch it off faster than any of the others. It may not be showing enough original drama, but it certainly has not lost its power to offend. With seven days to go to Christmas, it screened a stomach-churner on battery turkey farming on Monday.

But national debates about the remit of Channel 4 may soon seem as quaint as real coal fires and hand-mixed pastry. What the Broadcasting Bill clears the way for is the era of pay-TV: what most of those digital channels will be used for. If they catch on, the audience for ITV, let alone its oddball partner, may well shrivel.

The Bill, however, may overestimate the allure of digital television. Remember Prestel, Smell-o-vision and Videophone? Hyped to the rafters, they withered while technology and the consumer went off in another direction.

Sensibly, the Bill recognises the reality of convergence of broadcasting and print, and removes many barriers to cross-ownership. Yet it is curiously old-fashioned in its preoccupation with complaints about decency and violence.

Among the statistics released last week was the real shocker: one-third of British homes have three or more television sets. Television, in other words, is increasingly a solitary experience. As new channels — foreign, pay and digital — enter the home, it will be harder and harder to police what any individual viewer of any age chooses to watch.

And harder to stop terrestrial channels from pushing the boundaries. Why pay for porn when you can see, as on Channel 4 last Saturday night at 9.50pm, Paula Yates entwined with a guest asking him whether he has ever had sex with a pig?

With the launch of a new perfume costing about £14 million, it is no surprise that Chanel is the only one of the top ten manufacturers in private hands

Profits that are heaven scent

The demand for new perfumes has sparked a high street price war. **Alan Mitchell** reports

Just look at those adverts: gorgeous, perfect specimens of the human body, draped in luxurious garb, photographed by the world's best, to produce spellbinding works of art. Then there are exotic names like Chanel, Calvin Klein, Dior's *Dolce Vita*, Estée Lauder's *Pleasure*, Lancôme's *Poême*, which conjure their own tantalising images.

In the run-up to Christmas, fragrance marketers deploy this fascinating concoction to best effect, doing everything they can to catch the rush for the perfect present: the box of smellies. It is a marketer's dream — a luxury gift purchased with clockwork regularity, fanatically loyal consumers who often choose a particular smell in their youth and stick with it, and profit margins to die for.

A fine fragrance may sell for £40 in the shop, but typically will only cost £4 to make. Another £8 might go in the packaging and another £10 on advertising and promotion, with the rest going to general running costs — and profit. Which leaves plenty of scope for image-making.

But for how much longer? Suddenly perfume is losing its luxury cachet and becoming an everyday purchase — and buyers are no longer showing brand loyalty. "Nowadays people are buying perfumes for themselves," says Angela Creasy, the perfume buyer for Harrods. And, in places like London, "all everyone wants is the next big thing".

Manufacturers are duly responding with new-product mania. The French perfume houses launched 100 new fragrances this year. Boots, Britain's biggest perfume distributor, estimates that a fifth of its sales are now accounted for by products less than a year old.

In the process, traditional fragrance-making is being turned on its head. In the old days, a freelance expert called a *nez* would spend months blending a concoction of 200 or more different herbs and spices to come up with a new smell. It would then be taken up by a perfume house, given a name and a marketing concept and launched. Today, blockbusters like Dior's *Poison* are born first as a name and a marketing concept, and only then is the *nez* asked to come up with a brew that fits.

And such frenetic launch activity costs money. "The risks and costs are very high," says Bernard Arnault, the chairman of Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy. "A perfume launch can cost £14 million" — which explains why there are so few family businesses left. Arnault, for instance, heads the world biggest luxury conglomerate for whom historic names such as Dior, Givenchy, Guerlain and Christian Lacroix are just cogs in a huge brand portfolio.

> 'Perfume is becoming an everyday purchase'

Two of the top ten US and European perfumes, *Opium* and *L'Air du Temps*, come from the Yves Saint Laurent stable, whose ultimate owner is Elf Aquitaine, the French oil and pharmaceuticals giant. Another two, *Trésor* and Cacherel's *Anais Anais* (Britain's number one), come from L'Oréal, which is 49 per cent owned by Nestlé. Other L'Oréal brands include Armani, Ralph Lauren, Guy Laroche, Lanvin and Paloma Picasso.

Yet another two top European brands, Calvin Klein's *Eternity* and *Sunflowers*, are part of the grocery giant Unilever's stable. Its subsidiary, Elida Gibbs, recently started marketing its products under the more upmarket name of Fabergé. Indeed, of the top ten sellers in Europe and America only one, Chanel, with its classic No 5, remains in private hands.

Meanwhile, the retailing machines are moving in. Traditionally, perfume houses have sold their wares mainly through department stores, maintaining control over sales. In the last few years, however, Boots has introduced centralised warehousing, which gives it control of what it sells, and where. And instead of using manufacturers' merchandising and display materials, it creates its own. Ditto promotions.

Such activities have helped it to boost its market share. "This Christmas, one in four women in Britain will receive a bottle of fragrance bought for them at a Boots outlet," says David Kneale, its merchandising and marketing director. But in the process the perfume houses' image-makers are losing their grip on the market.

And, catching a whiff of huge margins and changing consumer attitudes, discounters are moving in. Three years ago, when Superdrug started selling fine fragrances at up to a third off the normal price, the major perfume houses refused to supply its stores, arguing that the chain failed to meet the high standards of fixtures, fittings, ambience, and staff training expected of an outlet selling luxury products. A subsequent Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry backed the perfume houses' "selective distribution" policies. Suppliers need to be able to control their distribution in order to protect their brand images, it said.

But Superdrug insisted it was being unfairly discriminated against and continued to sell discounted perfumes, sourcing them from the so-called "grey" market. And, claims its business development director, Steven Round, "our pricing policy has changed the market".

Boots, a supporter of selective distribution, fears that too much discounting will kill fragrance as a luxury gift. Nevertheless, it is offering up to 30 per cent off a wide range of perfumes. Indeed, the perfume price wars may be only just beginning. Since the MMC report, Superdrug has persuaded Yves St Laurent to supply it direct. Now it hopes to persuade the other big houses to follow suit — but they will have to accept the chain's pricing policies.

If they don't, the drug store could well return to the regulatory fray. The European Union is committed to investigating the market in 1997. Says Mr Round: "We've put a huge effort into understanding the major perfume houses. If, after all this, they still turn us down, what more can we do?"

Casualties of Monty's war

Sixty agency journalists face losing their jobs in the new year, writes **Roy Greenslade**

The ruthless nature of modern newspaper economics struck 60 young journalists with uncompromising force this week. They have been told that their jobs are in jeopardy just weeks after being hired by UK News, a news agency that was expected to become a major rival to the Press Association (PA).

UK News, which previously served only regional evening papers from its Leicester base, was encouraged to take on staff and open new offices so that it could provide a national service for two conglomerates, Mirror Group and Express Newspapers, which together publish ten national titles. Both groups announced in August that they were ending their contracts with PA after approaching UK News.

A deal was agreed and Alex Leys, Editor-in-Chief of UK News, set about the difficult task of finding competent staff, opening offices in London and Glasgow, and setting up the necessary technology to begin a news service from January 1 next year. PA, stung by the threat to its monopoly, quickly reduced the price of its own daily news service to other newspaper groups.

UK News was undaunted and emboldened by the fact that both the Express and Mirror Groups had taken 25 per cent stakes in its company along with two big regional newspaper chains, Westminster Press, owned by Pearson, and Northcliffe, part of Associated Newspapers, which also owns the *Daily Mail*.

While Leys began recruiting his team, however, there were disagreements between the four shareholders. The boardroom wrangle began in September when Westminster Press, as part of a cost-cutting drive, pulled out. The three remaining groups could not agree on how to allocate the shares and Northcliffe eventually persuaded WP to return.

David Montgomery: renegotiated the deal with PA

But that row, along with a squabble over the length of contracts, troubled Mirror Group's chief executive, David Montgomery. Unknown to Mr Leys, he renegotiated a five-year deal with PA, taking advantage of its offer of reduced rates. The Express Group, which had championed the UK News initiative from the start, was forced to follow suit, agreeing a three-year contract with PA.

Northcliffe is known to be furious about the way in which Mr Leys was allowed to continue hiring and training staff while Montgomery was talking to PA. But Montgomery's principal concern had always been to reduce the expense of receiving agency news, and he achieved his ambition.

Some executives in other groups blame him for the collapse of the project, arguing that it was all a cynical manoeuvre to force PA to cut its prices. That charge appears wide of the mark. He simply changed his mind.

Initial trials earlier this month by UK News were considered by the Express management to be better than expected. An angry Mr Leys emphasises that his journalists performed well. "They are a superb team who met the challenge of providing a national service and what has happened isn't their fault at all," he says. "I greatly regret the decision of the Mirror and Express to pull out. We are now doing all we can to rescue the situation. Of course, if that rescue proves impossible then there could be job losses. We'll know in the next ten days."

One UK News reporter, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "We all thought the deal was signed, sealed and delivered. We didn't imagine we were taking jobs without a proper agreement being in place. Some of the staff who have moved to London from as far away as Newcastle have even sold their houses."

Jon Slattery, who resigned as deputy editor of the *UK Press Gazette*, the trade magazine, to become the agency's business and media correspondent, has been advised not to start at UK News and has returned to his former job on contract. He says: "My heart goes out to those who have taken leases on flats in London. They could be out of work before the end of the year."

One question yet to be resolved is which company will fund redundancy payments. Irrespective of the legal situation, Northcliffe believes the Mirror and Express are morally obliged to pay up.

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MANAGEMENT

Despite the slump and sick building scares, the air conditioning business is set for growth, **Rodney Hobson** reports

Keen wind sharpens fresh-air industry

A chill breeze is blowing in the air conditioning industry. Although only a tiny proportion of commercial buildings in this country have air conditioning, competition is intense and margins have been squeezed.

Roger Williamson, marketing manager of Liebert Europe, explains: "There was a spate of building with air conditioning fitted, particularly in the City of London where you couldn't open windows, but there was also a lot of speculative building in the 1980s where proper services were not installed.

"Air conditioning got a bad press with talk about sick building syndrome and many property developers decided to leave the question of air conditioning to the tenant. They argued that air conditioning adds cost to a building and it may not meet the requirements of the occupier."

Consultants, in particular, have found the going tough. Richard Wilkins, divisional director at Symonds, says: "Because of compulsary competitive tendering and the general economic climate, professional fees have been pushed down. Our profession used to quote a set scale of fees which were accepted by the client. The market has become so competitive that if you quoted those fees now you would be laughed out of the room. The client would say halve it and then see what you can shave off."

Mr Williamson agrees: "Building services are fiercely competitive. We export to Eastern Europe and Russia. If we were entirely dependent on the home market we would have been squeezed. The market here is flat and, if anything, in decline."

Mr Wilkins says that "design consultants are trying to provide a Rolls-Royce service for a Ford Fiesta budget". Consultants, he says, sometimes accept work at a lower price as a loss leader. This sets a dangerous precedent as clients expect repeat work at the same price.

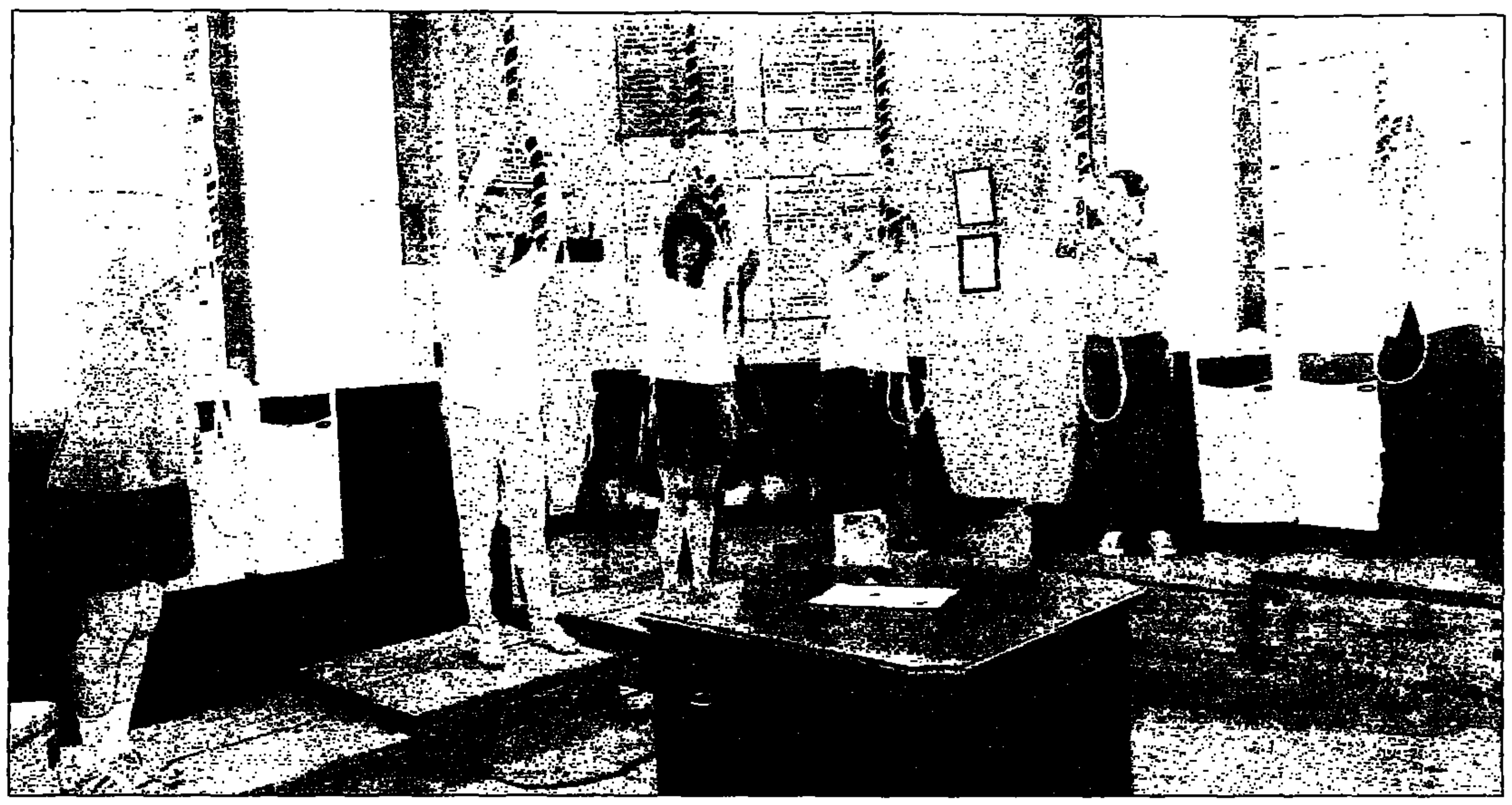
He says: "Maintenance contractors are operating in a price-driven system that knows the cost of everything and the value of very little." So clients know what they are paying but are less concerned about getting what they really need. The outcome is that all too often lawyers are called in when the air conditioning does not meet the client's expected standards of comfort or the machinery becomes faulty.

Mr Williamson is currently involved as an expert witness in a case involving a £12 million claim and sometimes feels he could make a more lucrative living as a full-time expert witness. Mr Wilkins sees improvements flowing from designers and consultants sitting round a table, even if that adds to the initial bill.

He says: "Once we had negotiations. It made more sense than litigation later. We defined a clear client brief and we talked about what they were and were not getting. Now there is very little access to the client."

Despite the tough conditions, many in the air conditioning industry see a more promising end to the century. Mitsubishi Electric, for instance, is doubling the production space at its factory at Livingston, near Edinburgh. It estimates its turnover at £22 million this year and confidently expects the figure to rise to £30 million next year.

Vic Brown, general manager, says about 6 per cent of UK office space is air conditioned, a figure he expects to rise to 20 per cent over the next ten years. He says: "This means that air conditioning will be one of the most vibrant markets in the building sector."



Hot work: the bell-ringers in St Paul's Cathedral were kept cool this summer thanks to the installation of a portable air-conditioning system

Appeal for a draught

THE HOT summer had the bell-ringers at St Paul's Cathedral sending for portable air conditioners. To mark Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 95th birthday on August 4 and the 50th anniversary of VJ-Day on August 15, teams of 12 ringers attempted full peals, ringing continuously for four hours. The desired temperature for ringing the bells is 70 degrees.

Installed in 1878 and weighing more than 13 tons, the 12 bells located in the northwest tower form one of the heaviest peals in the world. The tenor bell alone weighs more than three tons.

Four Ecodesign units, supplied by the air-conditioning specialists Carrier, counteracted rising temperatures and high levels of humidity. The portable air conditioners had to be quiet enough to allow the ringers to hear the bells clearly from the ringing room 20 feet up. Paul Mounsey, guild master, commented: "Bell-ringing is not for the faint hearted and the full peal is our marathon, requiring intense concentration to maintain the correct tempo. In the past we have suffered from the oppressive temperature and humidity conditions."

In the City, whichever company moves into the NatWest Tower will have the benefits of a new air conditioning system. The improvement is part of the major refurbishment programme after the devastation of the IRA bomb in April 1993. The NatWest bank itself, however, will not enjoy the comfort. It announced this month that its staff have been relocated and will not return to the tower.

The new air conditioning will be installed by Carrier, which has already put systems into four of London's tallest buildings. The five buildings have a combined height of nearly 2,500 ft and cover 180 floors. Each chiller at the NatWest Tower will weigh nearly 30 tons and will come in four sections to be assembled on site.

Euston Tower and the newly-listed Centrepoint have had their 1960s air conditioning overhauled during the past two years. At Euston Tower a lift had to be dismantled so that the two-ton, ten-foot long evaporators could be hoisted up the lift shaft.

Using a lift shaft was not possible at Centrepoint so a hoist in a steel framework was built running 550 feet up the outside of the building. The 244-metre tower at Canary Wharf produced one of the largest orders for chillers ever placed in the UK.

IN BRIEF

Confusion still reigns

HOPES that Spain would use its tenure of the European presidency to clear up the vexed and complex isssue of Tupe — the transfer of undertakings, protection of employment regulations — have come to naught.

Tupe regulations were designed to prevent wholesale sackings and the worsening of working conditions in company takeovers. The British rules were based on the EU's Acquired Rights Directive. Tribunal rulings and court cases in Britain and other European countries have extended the scope of the directive to cover the outsourcing of public sector functions.

A revised draft of the European Union's directive is still being debated after 18 months. Critics say the directive and subsequent court and tribunal rulings have left the providers of business services in a fog of uncertainty.

Meanwhile, contractors engaged in competitive tendering for the provision of local authority services are assuming that the Tupe regulations apply to practically all contracts and will have to take on all existing staff on their current terms of employment.

● ATLAS WRIGHT, the Leeds-based air-conditioning and building services group, has been bought out by its management team.

● BRITISH RAIL, Railtrack, AEA Technology and IBM are sponsoring the Association of Project Managers annual awards to be presented at the association's annual dinner at the Savoy Hotel on March 14.

● PCL has been awarded a £1.8 million contract to manage the mainframe computer of Thomson Directories. The operation will move from Thomson's computer facility at Farnborough, Hampshire, to PCL's data centre at Croxley Green, Hertfordshire.

● THE facilities maintenance contract for the Marks & Spencer headquarters in Baker Street, London, has been awarded to How Group's MTM.

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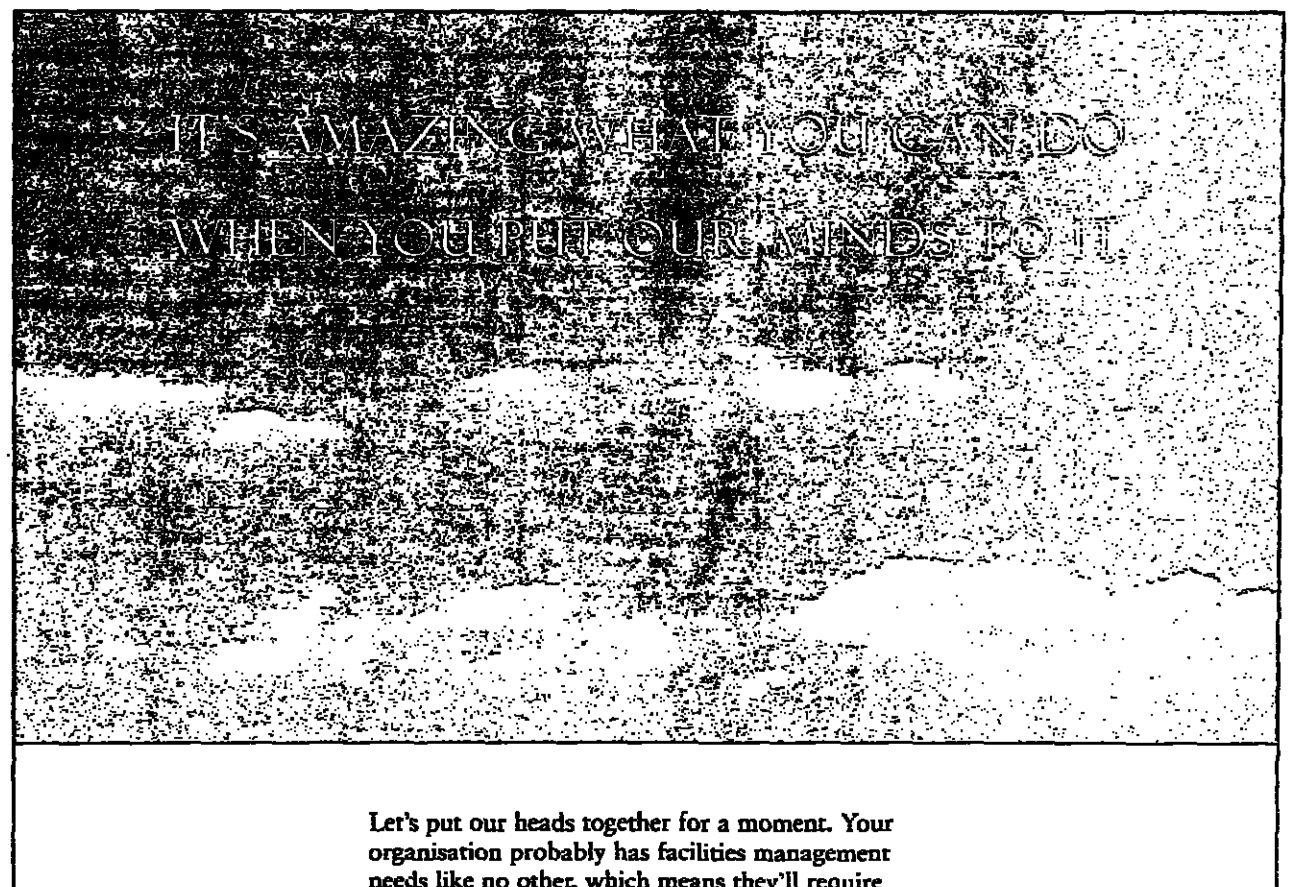

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Experts were wide of the mark with their predictions on house prices for 1995, says **Rachel Kelly**. For next year they are more realistic

Putting a price on houses in 1996

PROPERTY AROUND BRITAIN — SPOT THE ONLY REGION TO SHOW A PRICE RISE

Why do we still bother? Predictions, it seems, are a mug's game. In a depressed market, the chances of getting forecasts right are harder than finding a needle in the proverbial haystack.

Yet again, the market in 1995 has failed to live up to the promise projected for it by practically all the experts, including yours truly.

Such grey, sensible bodies as the Halifax Building Society and the Council of Mortgage Lenders all proved wildly over-optimistic in their views at the start of the year, although they rather cheated by revising their forecasts as the market's sorry progress unfolded.

Brickbats, too, for UBS. Housing market analyst Robert Thomas was way out when he said prices would be up by 6 per cent. In fact they were down by 1 per cent.

Some sectors proved perkier than others. Smart London houses in Hampstead and Kensington did well, with prices up by about 8 per cent, but in general the price of the average home, judged by the Halifax to be worth £62,332, fell by 1 per cent.

The Halifax's regional summary of house prices for the third quarter of 1995 — the latest available figures — show prices down in all but one of the 12 regions — prices in Northern Ireland are up 3.1 per cent on the year (see map, right).

Everywhere else, prices are down: in the North, by 4.7 per cent over the year; in Yorkshire and Humberside by 3 per cent; in East Anglia by 2.1 per cent; in London by 1.2 per cent; in the South West by 2.2 per cent.

The number of sales has steadied around the one million mark. Last year, the Central Statistical Office reported 1,069,000 sales. By the end of this year — and final figures are not yet available — it looks as though the number of sales will be up a fraction at around 1,160,000.

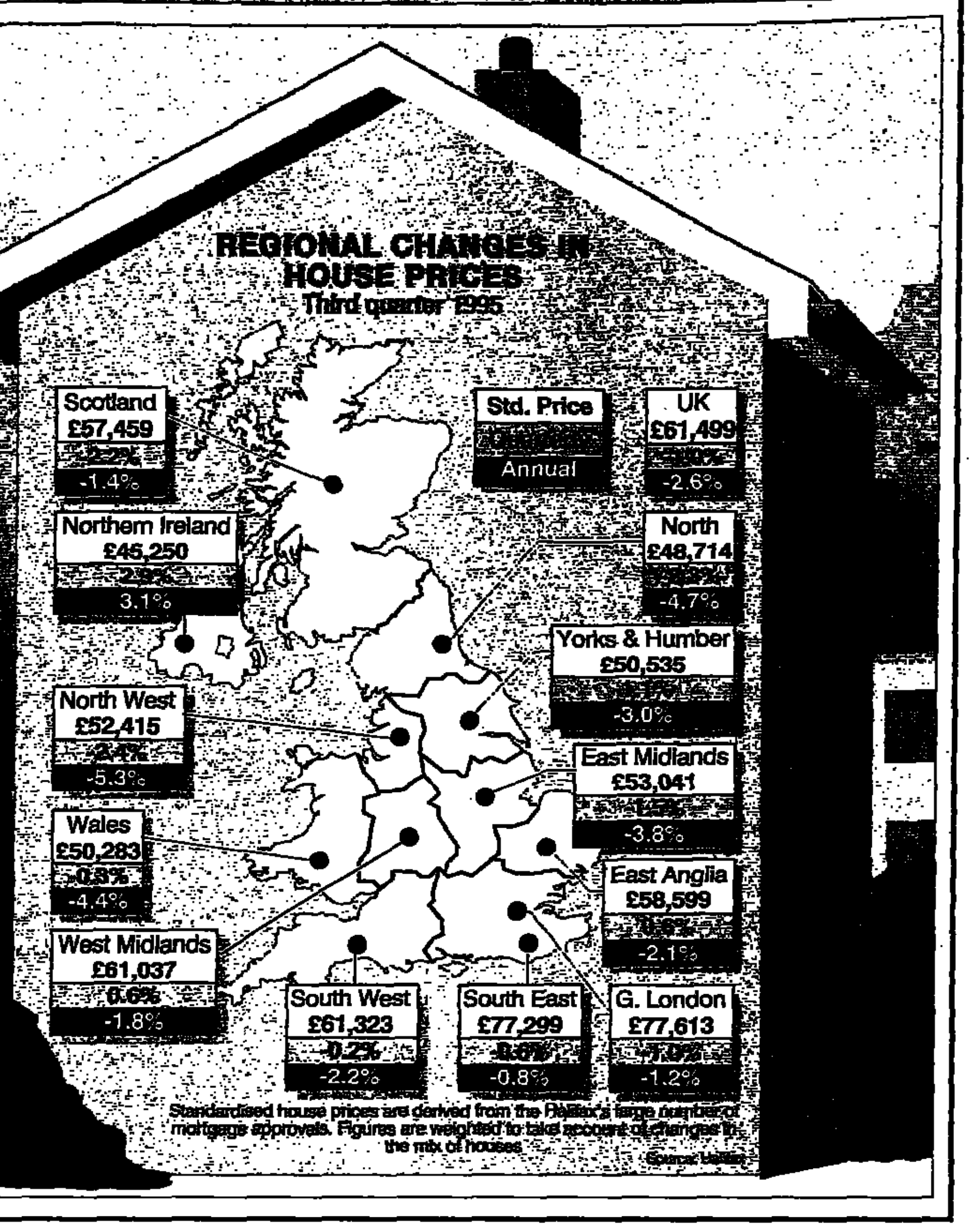
So whom should we believe for next year?

Last January, I said that prices would be up by 3 per cent. I was wrong, of course, but perhaps less wrong than some of the others.

This year? Well, pessimism is the order of the day. November's 1993 Budget and last year's Budget continued the process of emasculating mortgage interest relief. Population trends mean fewer first-time buyers: those children of the late 1950s and early 1960s who fuelled the 1980s boom. Uncertainty about a general election will make buyers and sellers cautious. So I predict a broadly flat market, with real falls assuming inflation, but a slightly more cheerful picture at the top end of the London market, fuelled by overseas buyers, and for the best of Home Counties country houses.

As for others, the most accurate forecasters for their sectors proved to be the House Builders' Federation and Knight Frank & Rutley on country houses. Their views and those of other experts are set out here.

> I predict a broadly flat market, with real falls assuming inflation


REGIONAL CHANGES IN HOUSE PRICES
Third quarter 1995
Std. Price
Annual
Scotland £57,459 2.2% -1.4%
UK £61,499 -2.6%
Northern Ireland £45,250 2.9% 3.1%
North £48,714 -4.7%
Yorks & Humber £50,535 -3.0%
North West £52,415 2.4% -5.3%
East Midlands £53,041 -3.8%
Wales £50,283 0.8% -4.4%
East Anglia £58,599 -2.1%
West Midlands £61,037 0.6% -1.8%
South West £61,323 0.2% -2.2%
South East £77,299 -0.8%
G. London £77,613 -1.2%

Standardised house prices are derived from the Halifax's large number of mortgage approvals. Figures are weighted to take account of changes in the mix of houses

Source: Halifax

PROPERTY IN GENERAL

■ *Gary Marsh, head of corporate affairs at the Halifax:* "We had predicted a gradual increase of 3 to 5 per cent in the UK average price for 1995 but by March this year we revised that figure down to 2 per cent. In fact house prices fell by 1 per cent in 1995. In 1996 house prices will increase by 1 to 2 per cent, and the standard variable mortgage rate by the end of 1996 will probably be 7 per cent."

■ *Rob Thomas, housing and investment analyst at UBS:* "We were at the bullish end of forecasts for 1995 and predicted house prices would rise 6 per cent. We got it completely wrong, and it looks likely that house prices will have fallen by just under 2 per cent by the end of this year. This would be the third worst annual performance since the 1950s.

"House sales this year will probably total 1.2 million, the second lowest figure since current records began in 1977. These conditions took all the main forecasters by surprise. A rapid recovery from the dire conditions of 1995 seems unlikely, but 1996 offers some hope. House prices should increase by 2 per cent. In 1997 they will increase by 6 per cent and in 1998 by 9 per cent. The recovery will be driven by the South of England which has been doing slightly better. The truth is that this savage bear market in housing will come to an end, it is simply of question of when."

■ *Sue Anderson, under-secretary of the Council of Mortgage Lenders:* "We anticipated a 2 per cent rise in house prices for 1995 and in fact there was around a 2 per cent fall. Perhaps we had a falsely rosy picture, but there was no way we could have anticipated the effect that income support changes would have on the market, to give just one example. We tend to make conservative estimates: this coming year we are anticipating a 3 per cent rise in house prices."

CENTRAL LONDON

■ *Yolande Barnes, head of residential research at Savills:* "We have now seen the full extent of the 'bounce back' in prime central London property values that we predicted in 1992. Values are now 33 per cent higher than they were in 1992 and are broadly back to their long-term trend. At the end of 1994 we were predicting that prices in central London would grow at 10 per cent as we thought the momentum would keep growing. However, we revised that figure to 2 per cent in June. This revised figure now looks set to be attained.

"Our forecast for 1996 is based on the assumption that continued growth in the economy benefits London as a financial and commercial centre, but that caution among housebuyers prior to a general election suppresses activity in the prime market. It seems likely that prices will rise only a little in excess of inflation and so we anticipate real price growth of 1.5 per cent in 1996."

LONDON IN GENERAL

■ *Simon Agace, chairman of London agent Winkworth:* "We predicted an 8 per cent rise in house prices in central London and, thanks to house price increases this month, we have been proved correct. Some parts of London only went up by 3 to 4 per cent, whereas central London went up by 10 per cent this year. At the beginning of 1995 we went through a sticky patch of confidence led by predictions of falling house prices. Thirty-year-olds, the original first-time buyers, have been renting but they were ill-advised; buying is still cheaper. In 1996 the capital value of your house will appreciate by more than the cost of your mortgage, and house prices will increase by 8 per cent in London."

COUNTRY HOUSES

■ *Rupert Sweeting of Knight Frank & Rutley:* "We said in 1994 that country house prices would rise steadily by 5 per cent by the spring and they did. Since the summer the market has appeared to lose some of its fizz and buyers are now tending to be more cautious. Perhaps this has something to do with people's concern about an impending election.

"In 1996 for the right country houses with no blemishes price rises may exceed 5 per cent due to the severe shortage of such property. Other country houses will show only a 1 to 2 per cent increase. Some people will continue to be wary of investing before the election, but the large bonuses that are expected from the City this Christmas will filter through."

NEW HOUSES

■ *Roger Humber, director of the House Builders' Federation:* "We said that not much would happen this year — the usual 1 per cent increase, then a 1 per cent decrease that cancel each other out. Prices for new homes were pretty much flat because of the continuing effect of the 1993 Budget.

"The housing market is poised for recovery in 1996. House sales are forecast to increase by nearly 100,000 in 1996, a rise of 10 per cent. However, it should be remembered that this is from a very low base of sales, the lowest for 35 years. In 1996 the price of new homes is set to rise by 2.5 per cent and nearly 5 per cent in 1997."

TOP OF THE MARKET

■ *William Gething of Property Vision:* "We predicted a rise of between 5 and 10 per cent in 1995; in fact the housing market has underperformed, and this year house prices have gone up by between 3 and 5 per cent at our end of the market.

"This is because interest rates have been quite high. At the moment real interest rates are around 5 per cent and the economy is slowing. My view is that 1996 will show very modest growth and house prices will increase by about 3 per cent. Of course there is no such thing as a single housing market any more. In London at the top end of the market there is a shortage of English family houses in places like Kensington, so house prices there should outperform my estimate. Short leases will underperform my estimate. The bottom end of the market is going to remain pretty dull."

Additional research by Leyla Linton

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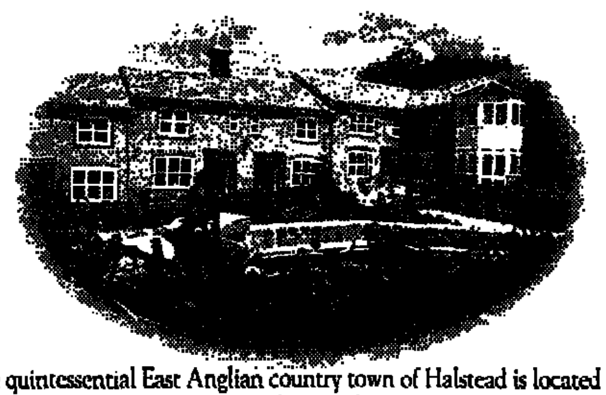

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Power to hear second complaint

Marley UK Ltd and Another v Anderson

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment December 13]

An industrial tribunal which had rejected an employee's complaint of unfair dismissal, on the ground that it was made more than three months after the dismissal but not within a reasonable time after the employee became aware of the ground of complaint, had jurisdiction to hear a second complaint about the same dismissal on a different ground which the employee had subsequently discovered.

The moment at which the employee first developed a belief in the right to claim unfair dismissal, on any grounds, did not fix, for all time and for all purposes including any grounds of complaint then still unknown but subsequently discovered, the point of time at which it became reasonably practicable for him to present a complaint. Issues of reasonable practicability under section 67(2) depended on awareness of specific grounds for complaint.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the employers, Marley UK Ltd and Marley Floors Ltd against a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Mummery, Mrs M. L. Boyle and Mr J. A. Scouller) (*The Times* December 16, 1993; [1994] ICR 295) that the industrial tribunal was entitled, notwithstanding its finding that a first set of facts had caused the employee, Stuart Anderson, to believe he had grounds for a complaint, to regard a second set of facts as a further ground for presenting a complaint and to conclude that it was not reasonably practicable to present a complaint on that ground before the end of a period of three months after the dismissal.

Section 67 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 provides: "(1) A complaint may be presented to an industrial tribunal against an employer by any person . . . that he was unfairly dismissed by the employer.

"(2) . . . an industrial tribunal shall not consider a complaint under this section unless it is presented to the tribunal before the end of the period of three months beginning with the effective date of termination or within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable in a case where it is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented before the end of the period of three months."

Mr David Richardson for the employers; Mr John Bowers for the employee.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the employee's first ground of complaint had been unfair selection for redundancy and the second alleged that the true reason for his complaint was not redundancy at all but capability.

The two grounds both relied on different facts but in both cases the facts relied on were unknown to the employee until after the expiry of the three-month time limit from the date of dismissal.

The first ground had originally been raised as a single ground in the originating application which the employee presented more than three months after the date of dismissal. The second ground was raised by subsequent amendment to the same application.

Because both grounds had been raised outside the three-month time limit imposed by section 67(2) of the 1978 Act, it became necessary for the tribunal to rule, as a preliminary issued, on whether it had jurisdiction to entertain the complaint.

In the case of the first ground, the industrial tribunal ruled that it had not been practicable for the employee to present his complaint within time because the employee had not become aware of the facts upon which it was founded within the three months; but nevertheless held that it had no jurisdiction to entertain the complaint so far as it depended on that ground, because the employee or his advisers had delayed unreasonably in issuing the originating application.

In the case of the second ground of complaint the industrial tribunal made a similar finding that the, previously undiscovered, facts on which it was founded did not come to his knowledge until a date which made it impracticable to present the complaint within time, but in that instance held that it had jurisdiction to entertain the complaint because the complaint had been raised reasonably quickly after acquiring the relevant knowledge.

The employers had argued before the Employment Appeal Tribunal that time began to run against the employee for all purposes once he became aware of one set of facts providing grounds for an unfair dismissal complaint. That contention had been rejected by the appeal tribunal.

The issue was whether industrial tribunals were bound, when applying section 67(2) of the 1978 Act, to regard the moment at which the employee first developed a belief in the right to claim unfair dismissal, on any grounds, as fixing, for all time and for all purposes including any grounds of complaint then still unknown but subsequently discovered, the point of time at which it became reasonably practicable for him to present a complaint.

Another way of expressing the same question was whether issues of reasonable practicability under section 67(2) depended on awareness of a right to complain at all, or upon awareness of specific grounds for complaint.

Mr Anderson was information technology manager with Marley Floors Ltd. He was made redundant on November 15, 1991. On March 18 or 19, 1992 he had discovered from a former colleague that the company had merged with another in the Marley group and that another employee had been appointed information technology manager in the merged group. Mr Anderson had presented a complaint on April 24, 1992 that his dismissal was not a genuine redundancy or that he had been unfairly selected for redundancy.

In October 1992, Mr Anderson had obtained a copy of a memorandum written in June 1991 criticising his performance. He had not previously been told there was any criticism of his performance. On November 9, 1992 he had amended his originating application to contend that if the true reason for his dismissal was conduct or capability it was both procedurally and substantively unfair.

The nature of the employment relationship was such that employers would normally have a greater knowledge than employees of the particular circumstances giving rise to a dismissal.

A disadvantage of the tribunals' informal procedure for pleadings and discovery was that information necessary to enable an employee to know and understand the full circumstances of, and motives for his dismissal might emerge only slowly and gradually.

As the picture emerged, the employee ought to be allowed the maximum opportunity of adding to, or changing, his grounds of complaint. There was no principle of justice or fairness which would justify restraining the employee from proceeding on a second ground of complaint, raised within a period found by the tribunal to be reasonable.

If employers wished to protect themselves against late claims on the basis of newly discovered information, they would see to it that the fullest information was given to the employee at the time of dismissal and that if proceedings followed their discovery was openhanded.

Mr Richardson had submitted on the basis of passages in *Machine Tool Industry Research Association v Simpson* ([1988] ICR 558, 564G) and in *Churchill v A. Yeates & Son Ltd* ([1983] ICR 380, that it was now settled law that industrial tribunals must regard the moment at which the employee first developed a belief in a right to claim unfair dismissal on some ground as fixing for all time the moment of reasonable practicability.

Those passages however should not be construed as if they were statutes. They did not restrict the proposition which his Lordship, in common with the Employment Appeal Tribunal, believed to be the law, that the questions posed by section 67(2), reasonable practicability of presentation within time and the reasonableness of any subsequent period elapsing before presentation, were both matters to be weighed separately, ground by ground and fact by fact, under each head of unfair dismissal upon which a complaint or complaints was or were founded.

Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Argles & Court, Maidstone; Harman & Harman, Canterbury.

Sanction for false statement

Regina v Page

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Judge and Mr Justice Clarke

[Judgment December 14]

A false statement made to a trading standards officer during an interview under caution was a statement to which criminal sanctions applied.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Philip Charles Page against his conviction in February 1995 at Isleworth Crown Court (Judge Meier), on a plea of guilty after a ruling by the trial judge, to three counts of making a false statement to a trading standards officer contrary to section 29(2) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 for which he was fined £200, with seven days imprisonment in default, on each count and ordered to pay £400 prosecution costs.

Section 29 of the 1968 Act provides:

"(1) Any person who — . . . (c) without reasonable cause fails to give [a trading standards officer] . . . any other assistance or information which he may reasonably require of him for the purpose of the performance of his functions under this Act, shall be guilty of an offence. . .

"(2) If any person, in giving such information as is mentioned in the preceding subsection, makes any statement which he knows to be false, he shall be guilty of an offence."

Mr Julian Christopher, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Simon Blackford for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant was a self-employed dealer in vehicles. He was involved in buying second-hand cars for a friend, the co-defendant, who altered the odometer readings before re-selling the cars.

When the appellant was interviewed, under caution, by a trading standards officer he made statements which he knew to be false, and he was charged with three offences under section 29(2) of the 1968 Act.

Before the trial judge Mr Christopher submitted that section 29(2) did not cover information provided in an interview under caution because the word "require" in section 29(1)(c) had a mandatory element and the offence in section 29(2) could only be committed in a situation where the interviewee was bound to answer the question.

Ex hypothesi, if the interviewee had been told, in the words of the caution, that he did not need to answer the question, then the situation was not one which fell within the scope of section 29(1)(c). The trial judge ruled against that submission and the appellant changed his plea to one of guilty.

Mr Christopher repeated his submission before their Lordships who felt unable to read the section in that way.

If one looked first at section 29(2), a person giving information was at risk if he gave information which he knew to be false, and that situation was one which, on the fact of it, arose in the present case.

It arose because information was being sought which the officer reasonably required of the interviewee for the purpose of the performance of the officer's functions under the Act.

The interviewee did not have to answer the officer's questions because he had been cautioned, and if he declined to answer then he would not have been guilty of any offence under section 29(1)(c) since that section opened with the words "without reasonable cause". He would have had a reasonable cause for failing to give information because he had been cautioned and told that he need not give it.

However, if he had chosen to give information which was false he put himself plainly within the scope of section 29(2).

Any other construction would lead to an absurdity because, if Mr Christopher's construction was correct, up to the moment of caution, if the interviewee gave information which was false, he was liable to be prosecuted under section 29(2).

However, once the formality of caution had been gone through he could then give not merely no information but false information with impunity and that, it seemed to their Lordships, could not have been what the Act intended.

In other statutory provisions in the Act the verb "require" undoubtedly envisaged the person in respect of whom the requirement was made doing something which he had no option but to do, but that was plainly not the situation which arose in section 29(1) and (2) for the reasons outlined above.

"Require" was an ordinary English word and could be used in different contexts and plainly it was used in different ways in different sections of the 1968 particular Act. The judge was right in the ruling he gave and accordingly there was no substance in this appeal.

Solicitors: Mr David Over, Reading.

Hospital blood sample request

Webber v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Holland

[Judgment December 4]

A requirement lawfully made of a patient at a hospital for the provision of a blood sample under section 9(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was not varied or discharged by the fact that the patient left the hospital before she could comply.

It remained valid when the discharged patient was subsequently arrested under section 6 of the Act and taken to a police station where a breath analysis machine was available.

There was nothing in the statute to say that the locus was so vital that the specimen had to be provided in the hospital.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an appeal by Penelope Webber by way of case stated against the dismissal of her appeal at Kingston Crown Court (Judge MacRae and justices) on April 4, 1995 against her conviction by Wimbledon Justices on December 8, 1994 of driving with excess alcohol contrary to section 5(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Section 9 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) While a person is at hospital as a patient he shall not be required to provide a specimen of breath for a breath test or to provide a specimen for a laboratory test unless the medical practitioner in immediate charge of his case has been notified of the proposal to make the requirement; and — (a) if the requirement is then made, it shall be for the provision of a specimen at the hospital. . ."

Mr Keith Hadrill for Ms Webber; Mr John McGuinness for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE HOLLAND said that following a car accident Ms Webber was taken to hospital. While still a patient she refused to give a breath specimen.

She was therefore required to give a blood sample subject to the provisions of sections 7(1)(b) and 9(1) of the 1988 Act but before she was able to comply she was discharged.

As she was no longer a patient, she was subsequently arrested for her earlier failure to provide a specimen. At the police station she provided a blood specimen and was charged.

Mr Hadrill submitted that upon discharge from hospital Ms Webber was similarly discharged from the obligation to comply with the lawful requirement to provide blood.

The obligation started afresh under section 7(1)(a) of the 1988 Act, necessitating provision of breath specimens through the use of a breath analysis machine which was available at the police station.

Since the police did not adopt that course, the blood specimen actually provided was not supplied in response to any lawful requirement and therefore could not found the conviction. Mr Hadrill drew the court's attention to the words of section 9(1)(a) saying that the requirement "shall be for the provision of a specimen at the hospital".

Given that the lawful requirement had to be on those terms, he submitted, it could only be satisfied by provision at the hospital. Reliance was also placed on *Pascoe v Nicholson* ([1981] RTR 421, 429H) and *Whelan v DPP* (unreported, June 28, 1994, DC).

Mr McGuinness submitted that the fact found by the justices, that the requirement by the police officer for the provision of a blood specimen was lawful, set in train a procedure backed up by the sanction of section 7(6) of the 1988 Act.

Once set in train that course could not be discharged by an irrelevant change of locus. As long as the section 9(1)(a) procedure was started in hospital and not abrogated it continued after the patient left hospital.

Only if an officer, following discharge from hospital, set in train the section 7(1)(a) procedure, making it abundantly plain that the procedure previously in course was no longer in course, could there be an abrogation. In the present case there was no such indication.

In his Lordship's judgment, those submissions were to be preferred. In particular, the officer had set in train the procedure by virtue of a lawful requirement.

That procedure had a sanction provided and it was not varied or discharged by the mere fact that Ms Webber left hospital before she could comply. There was nothing in the Act which said that locus was so vital that the specimen had to be provided in hospital.

The court respectfully could not agree with the Divisional Court in *Whelan*, where the point was not fully argued and the observations of Mr Justice Buxton were obiter dicta. The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Kidd MacLaverty & Co, Kingston upon Thames; Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Restricting satellite litigation

Oliver and Another v McKenna & Co (a Firm)

A plaintiff could only sue his advisers for negligently putting, or omitting to put, evidence before the court, which had led to the court making an order with which he was dissatisfied if the inclusion, or exclusion, of such evidence had the effect of entirely changing the aspect of the case.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, on November 30 in dismissing an action for negligence brought by Laurence Edward Oliver and Design Ancillaries (Engineering) Ltd against McKenna & Co, a firm of solicitors, for, inter alia, their recommendation of a particular incorporated insolvency practitioner which led to his appointment by Mr Justice Harman, on February 1, 1988, as the receiver of a partnership between the first plaintiff and his son.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the purpose behind cases like *Hunter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police* ([1982] AC 529) and *Somasundaram v M. Julius Melchior & Co* ([1988] 1 WLR 1394) was to restrict to a minimum satellite litigation, the purpose or major effect of which would be to undermine in one court the considered decision of another court on the same issue.

In the instant case, the question was whether Mr Justice Harman's decision to appoint the receiver was correct, not whether subsequent events would have justified the court in removing him.

Right to oral hearing over dispute

Regina v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex parte Dickson

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment December 5]

Where there was a dispute about the character of an applicant for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 1990 (Cmd 2434) that would amount to a dispute as to conclusions under paragraph 24(c) of the scheme so that he would be entitled to an oral hearing.

Mr Justice Carnwath, sitting as additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when upholding the application of Richard Dickson for certiorari to quash the refusal by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board on January 19, 1992 of his application for an oral hearing of his claim for compensation for assault and robbery after that claim was rejected on the ground of his own criminality.

Paragraph 24 of the 1990 Scheme provides: "An applicant will be entitled to an oral hearing only if . . . (c) no award or a reduced award was made and there is a dispute as to the material facts or conclusions upon which the initial or reconsidered decision was based or it appears that the decision may have been wrong in law or principle."

Mr David A. Blake for the applicant; Mr Michael Kent for the board.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the issue was whether, having regard to the correct interpretation of paragraph 24(c) the board could reasonably have refused an oral hearing.

The applicant contended that "conclusion" in paragraph 24(c) meant any conclusion drawn from the facts including the conclusion as to the extent to which the award should be affected by a previous conviction.

His Lordship accepted that there was no reason to adopt an artificial restriction on the ordinary meaning of the word, particularly in a context where character was being used as a reason to deprive someone of compensation which was otherwise due.

The language in paragraph 24(c) was not therefore confined to just raw facts, but also to the conclusions which were to be drawn from them, inferences, and also value judgments as to significance and weight, in reaching a final evaluation.

It was not necessary to attempt an all-embracing definition but the points that might be covered included the genuiness of attempts made by the defendant to reform himself and the seriousness of the crimes and the weight to be given to a series of less serious crimes.

All those were matters on which an oral hearing could be important to put the bare record in context. All the applicant could do was put his side of the story and his assessment of the convictions.

In doing so he was implicitly putting in issue the evaluation at first instance of those convictions; in other words he was disputing the conclusions on which the decision was based.

The board's decision was understandable if it thought that it was concerned solely with disputes of fact or inferences of fact, but not if the paragraph had the wider meaning which his Lordship considered it bore. It was not a decision which it could reasonably have arrived at. The application succeeded and the decision would be quashed.

Solicitors: Miss Angela Harding, Wythenshawe; Treasury Solicitor.

Former client waived legal privilege

Kershaw v Whelan

Before Mrs Justice Ebsworth

[Judgment October 12]

A solicitor who was sued by a former client was entitled to discovery and inspection of privileged documents in the files of solicitors previously acting for the plaintiff, which related to separate proceedings and which included notes of advice given by solicitors and opinions and advices of counsel.

By bringing civil proceedings against his solicitor the plaintiff impliedly waived legal professional privilege in respect of all relevant matters, including files of his other earlier solicitors held by his present solicitors.

Mrs Justice Ebsworth so held giving judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers in Liverpool of an interlocutory application for discovery by the defendant, Alan Whelan, in proceedings for breach of trust, breach of contract or negligence brought by Ian Kershaw.

Mr Nicholas Davidson, QC, for the defendant; Mr Ian Leeming, QC, for the plaintiff.

MRS JUSTICE EBSWORTH said the plaintiff was severely disabled, being spastic and almost blind. His father had died in April 1979 and in accordance with the wishes of his father's widow he moved from the family home to institutional accommodation which he disliked. His father had left £44,377 in a trust fund to be applied between his beneficiaries at the trustees' absolute discretion.

The trustees had consulted the defendant, whose reply by letter of June 20, 1979 was a factor influencing the trustees to award the widow £39,041 and the plaintiff and his sister £5,336 apiece. The plaintiff contended that that distribution was inequitable given his specific needs and severe disabilities.

The present action was made on a claim that the letter of July 20, 1979 was written in breach of a duty owed to him by Mr Whelan. Mr Whelan had denied breach of duty and pleaded limitation. The defence relied on documents and letters passing between the plaintiff and his former solicitors, Mannheim & Otto, in 1983. The plaintiff claimed in reply that he did not and could not with due diligence have discovered the relevant facts until April 1985.

The plaintiff had engaged in other litigation using various firms of solicitors and it was in connection with those proceedings that the documents sought by the defence had come into existence.

Those were undoubtedly privileged documents. The fact that the action for which they had been brought into existence was concluded was immaterial: *Calcraft v Guest* ([1898] 1 QB 759). The issue was whether the privilege had been waived in respect of documents going to the issues in the present case.

The principal issue in the present case was deliberate concealment and the plaintiff's date of knowledge of the letter of July 20, 1979 and/or its purport.

In her Ladyship's judgment, the files of the plaintiff's former solicitors in the hands of his present solicitor were subject to the same rules of discovery as the file of his present solicitors. There was no logical basis for distinguishing between those files and those of the plaintiff's present solicitors where the various solicitors were dealing with essentially the same subject matter.

Solicitors: Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave, Leeds; H. F. T. Gough & Co, Whitehaven.

Limit to right of legal self-help

Co-Operative Wholesale Society Ltd v British Railways Board

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment December 18]

The right of abatement should be confined to cases where the security of lives or property required immediate and speedy action or where such action could be exercised simply without recourse to the expense and inconvenience of legal proceedings in circumstances unlikely to give rise to argument or dispute. Where a simple and speedy application to a court could be made, the remedy of self-help was neither appropriate nor desirable.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment allowing in part an appeal by the British Railways Board from a judgment on March 21, 1995 by Judge Briggs in Darlington County Court awarding the Co-Operative Wholesale Society the sum of £6,056, the cost of demolishing and rebuilding part of a wall, on the property of the defendants.

Mr Piers Hill for the BR board; Mr Martin Lindsay for CWS.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the wall on BR's land had started to bulge over part of its section and to lean over the land belonging to CWS.

A BR representative did not agree that it was dangerous but stated that if CWS wanted to carry out repairs he was willing for them to do so but at their expense. CWS demolished the wall and rebuilt it and claimed the cost from BR who refused to pay.

Mr Hill had accepted the judge's finding that the wall was a nuisance but had argued that he was wrong to hold that BR were responsible either for the cost of demolition or for rebuilding. He said that the law had always set its face against self-help unless recourse to such remedies was unavoidable.

He referred to *Clerk and Lindsell on Tort* (17th edition, p1549) where under the rubric of "Abatement of nuisances" the authors said: "The right to abate a nuisance has fallen into a certain amount of judicial disfavour and various limitations have been put up it in judgments which suggests the creation of further limitations in future."

After referring to various authorities his Lordship said that the judge having found that £1,400 was reasonably spent in demolition he could see no bar to CWS recovering that sum as damages.

He confessed that he would have reached the opposite conclusion with considerable reluctance for he would not like to think that a rule of procedure propounded over 350 years ago to discourage a party from taking the law into his own hands precluded the common law from developing in a way which allowed recovery in the circumstances of the case.

To deny an occupier the right to the cost of removal of a potential source of danger to his property, which the court had held was expenditure justifiably and reasonably incurred in the circumstances, could deter action being taken to prevent danger to visitors or workmen using the premises.

In the present case CWS feared not only for the safety of customers but also for the safety of those who would be working on the site.

On the second ground of appeal he could see no basis on which CWS could recover the cost of rebuilding the wall. It was BR's wall.

While CWS might have regarded it as reasonable and in its own interests have desired to rebuild the wall, it had no right to do so and any permission it had was to rebuild it at its own expense if it wished to do so.

BR owed no duty to CWS to fence its land and if CWS wished to provide for the safety of its visitors it could reasonably have done so on its own property.

His Lordship would allow the appeal and vary the judge's order to substitute the figure of £1,400, the cost of demolishing the wall.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

Solicitors: Jacksons, Middlesbrough; Kennedys.

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■ TELEVISION

Is it 17th-century England or our modern era that is portrayed in John Osborne's last screenplay?

■ VISUAL ART

Fine photography on show: 1930s Germany in focus; and Weegee's view of 1940s New York

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ JAZZ

George Melly has to work hard to win over boisterous punters at Ronnie Scott's

■ TOMORROW

Reviews of West End films and shows, including Harvey's *Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club*

TELEVISION PREVIEW: John Osborne's final screenplay mixes characteristic bile with (below, right) a life of Purcell

A caviller's dream of Restoration

John Osborne felt he had been born in the right place at the wrong time. Starting with *Look Back in Anger*, continuing as he grew older and his patriotism grouchier, he was forever comparing our leaden era with the silver of Edwardian Britain and the gold of earlier epochs. The key text is the slightly barmy *Sense of Detachment*, in which one character reads extracts from antique love poems and another bits of contemporary porn, giving the impression that England has shrunk from a green and pleasant land into a sex-aid supermarket on the M1.

His last screenplay, *England, My England*, to be shown by Channel 4 on Christmas Day, is better and mostly less batty than *Detachment*, but it is in the same tradition. The period is the late 1960s, and a disenchanted actor is simultaneously playing the lead in Shaw's *Good King Charles's Golden Days* and trying to write a TV play about the Restoration and, in particular, the career of Henry Purcell. But Simon Callow, who takes the role, spends relatively little time in his own era. Mostly the action occurs three centuries earlier, with Charles the snarky thesp transformed into Charles the affable, humorous king.

> ‘Muddle and paranoia are not always avoided’

The dangers, which are muddle, paranoia and sentimentality, are not always avoided. Even Tony Palmer's resourceful production seems foxed by the passage at the end when Michael Ball's Purcell swaps his period clothes for modern ones and starts wailing inscrutably about "the unknown". And you do sometimes get the feeling that the Restoration consisted of Dryden drinking merrily with Pepys in a building by Wren to the accompaniment of Purcell's music and the gentle plash of Lely painting Nell Gwyn, while life today means festering in a seedy flat outside a chemical works as dim do-gooders compete with a shrieking Ian Paisley for your attention from the TV set.

But the flip side of that is an enjoyably lavish if overlong history lesson interspersed with the odd bucketful of bile. Here is the great, late Robert Stephens bringing his mellow charisma to Dryden and his couplets, and here is the late, great Osborne denouncing "prigs, knighthood seekers, grubbing timeservers, malignant opinion-makers, classnessness, correctness", not to mention a monarchy that "isn't even the tarnished gold fillings in a mouthful of decay". As for the Common Market, it is "as drab a name for such a monumental swindle since some bright little German adman thought of putting mass murder in the market as National Socialism". Osborne's not-so-subtle case is that, thanks to Charles's good sense, good nature and eye for talent, 17th-century England recovered from the Commonwealth while we seem to be stuck in a drab Cromwellian winter. But he does make some effort not to idealise the Restoration. We get Great Plague, Great Fire, a hanging and a fairly grisly disembowelling. We also watch Ball's genial Purcell battling petty bureaucracy, poverty and the loss of child after child before succumbing to the kind of bug a couple of pills would cure today.

Incidental pleasures include the appearance of the impresario Bill Kenwright as a doomy impresario called Bill ("No one is going to put up with this much violence, not on the telly") and some superb photography. How, for instance, to evoke the devastation of 1666? Night, red light, rushing men, flames from a building reflected in the river, and the whole of London seems ablaze.

Of course, this does raise a final question, which is whether fire, smallpox, infant mortality *et al* are quite the subjects for Christmas Day. What next, *Oh Calcutta!* on Good Friday? But I suppose one of the reasons we love and hate Channel 4 is that it is the maverick's opiate. And, as *England, My England* reaffirms, nobody was a more robust and thoroughgoing maverick than Osborne.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Simon Callow as Charles the modern actor — or is it King Charles II? — in *England, My England*, Channel 4's time-travelling Christmas Day treat

There is one very practical reason why Osborne turned a commission for a screenplay about Purcell into the eccentric web of metaphor, whimsy and time-travel that is *England, My England*. Like the legions of musicologists who have churned out articles and books about the great Baroque composer to mark the 300th anniversary of his death, Osborne was aware of how few facts we possess about Purcell's birth, or the details of his life, or even the manner of his demise. To us, he seems as elusive a figure as Shakespeare.

Except for one thing: much of Purcell's greatest music was written to celebrate the triumphs or mourn the tragedies of the Restoration court. The great strength of *England, My England* is that it takes dozens of those familiar, noble tunes — *Sound the trumpet; I attempt from love's sickness to fly; Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts* — and evokes, in the most sumptuous fashion, a possible historical context for each one.

Doubtless the scholars will point to improbabilities, as they delighted in tearing apart that other celluloid epic of musical "faction", *Amadeus*. But there have been enough scrupulously researched "authentic" performances of Purcell in 1995. This elegy for a lost England, and (as it turned out) more than one lost English muse, aspires only to be a gloriously imaginative fantasy on historical themes.

Tony Palmer's film is occasionally facile in its glib parallels between "then" and "now". *Lilliburlero* inevitably brings up news footage of Northern Ireland's troubles; and, at the end, *Fairest Isle* is sung while a bulldozer gouges some green meadows.

But even its glibness is compelling, and sometimes inspired. The Great Fire of London, for instance, is accompanied by Walton's blistering score for the film *The Battle of Britain*: a ludicrous anachronism, yet a brilliantly effective way of setting up ironic echoes across the centuries.

Most important of all, *England, My England* celebrates Purcell's work with real insight. The musical performances, supplied by the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists under John Eliot Gardiner's direction, are as vivid as anything recorded in this tercentenary year. And the fragile perfection of Purcell's music — a marvel conjured out of thin air, one always feels — underlines Osborne's message.

And what is that message? Surely this: if Restoration England — beset by continual catastrophes, economic and natural — managed to maintain the civilised values that allowed genius to flourish, why can't we? It is, of course, a classic, nostalgic English question; even in Purcell's day they were looking back with misty-eyed longing to the era of Byrd, Shakespeare and Good Queen Bess.

But in this screenplay it acquires a uniquely personal slant. Osborne's reverence for an earlier Englishman whose genius was of a higher order than his own is curiously touching. In the playwright's own swansong, such generosity and perception seem doubly poignant.

RICHARD MORRISON

● England, My England *will be shown on Channel 4 at 9.05pm on Christmas Day*

Audience has the blues . . .

THE sound of George Melly's theme tune, *Good Time George*, reverberating through Ronnie Scott's is as reliable a harbinger of Christmas as a drink-driving campaign. The full scenario demands that the club be filled with revellers keen to listen to the Feetwarmers' music and be pleasantly shocked by Melly's risqué patter. On this opening night, however, it was clear as soon as the lines "I'll be the fairy on your Christmas tree/If you promise not to look up my pedigree" had failed to silence the chatter that this audience would have to be won over rather than milked of its seasonal goodwill.

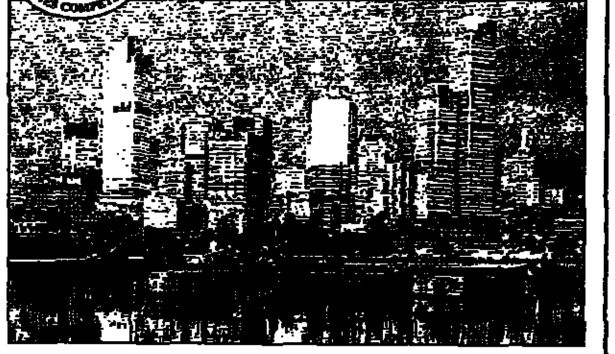
Played to sympathetic audiences, the act is a surefire winner: while John Chilton ensures that the music is impeccably arranged and presented, Melly acts as a genial host, guiding listeners through the riches of classic jazz and blues, liberally spicing his informative introductions with off-colour jokes.

George Melly
Ronnie Scott's

The ingredients were all there as usual: a pleasantly slurred version of Fats Waller's *Ain't Misbehavin'* was followed by one of Bessie Smith's most poignant compositions, *Wasted Life Blues*; both *Sweet Georgia Brown* and *Frankie and Johnny* received their customary airings; *I'm Beginning to See the Light* and *All of Me* featured neat, intelligent arrangements. Still the revellers remained committed to their own private parties.

The most promising reaction came when Melly announced that he was going to sing *Underneath the Arches*. When it became clear that the brooding Chilton arrangement was going to emphasise the song's message about homelessness rather than push nostalgia buttons, however, this interest fell away. The band performed with great professionalism — it was just that, on this occasion, the Christmas spirit was clearly flowing into the audience rather than out of it.

CHRIS PARKER



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PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWS: Life through the lens, from 19th-century anthropology to modern City law firms

Candid camera on the Nazi hens

Those who have a penchant for photo-stories will be delighted by **German Photographs of the 1930s**. At the time, German publications were fond of using the form to tell wry, cautionary tales. A few are exhibited here, one of the funniest concerning a portly, middle-aged man who receives a police summons because of his noisy dog. The expressions on the man's face are impeccably absurd, captured by a (sadly) unknown photographer.

These photo-stories form part of the archive of the Klinsky Press Agency: 25,000 photographs of prewar Germany that were discovered last year in a Dutch shed by the Archive of Modern Conflict. The images are a valuable historical tool, showing the growing influence of the Nazi party. In one of the most striking shots, a clutch of hens is mustered in swastika formation, the result of a loyal farmer's arrangement of seed.

Some of the propaganda comes in a more obvious form, especially the three portraits of a chain smoker, an alcoholic and a cocaine addict. The subjects are lit in an Expressionist manner, their features as stark and horrible as the lunatics in Nazi films promoting eugenics.

Many of the images show technological progress and order. Zeppelins float over the Brandenburg Gate, half-naked young men of the German Labour Service march in rank to perform gymnastics with tree trunks, and nuns are shown on the telephone. However, one 1932 shot, showing a man with his toy soldiers, is ironic. The caption reads: "This vast army is beyond the control of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles."

Exhibition foyer, Festival Hall, London SE1 (until January 14). It transfers to Bath's Royal Photographic Society (01225 462841) from January 27 to March 31

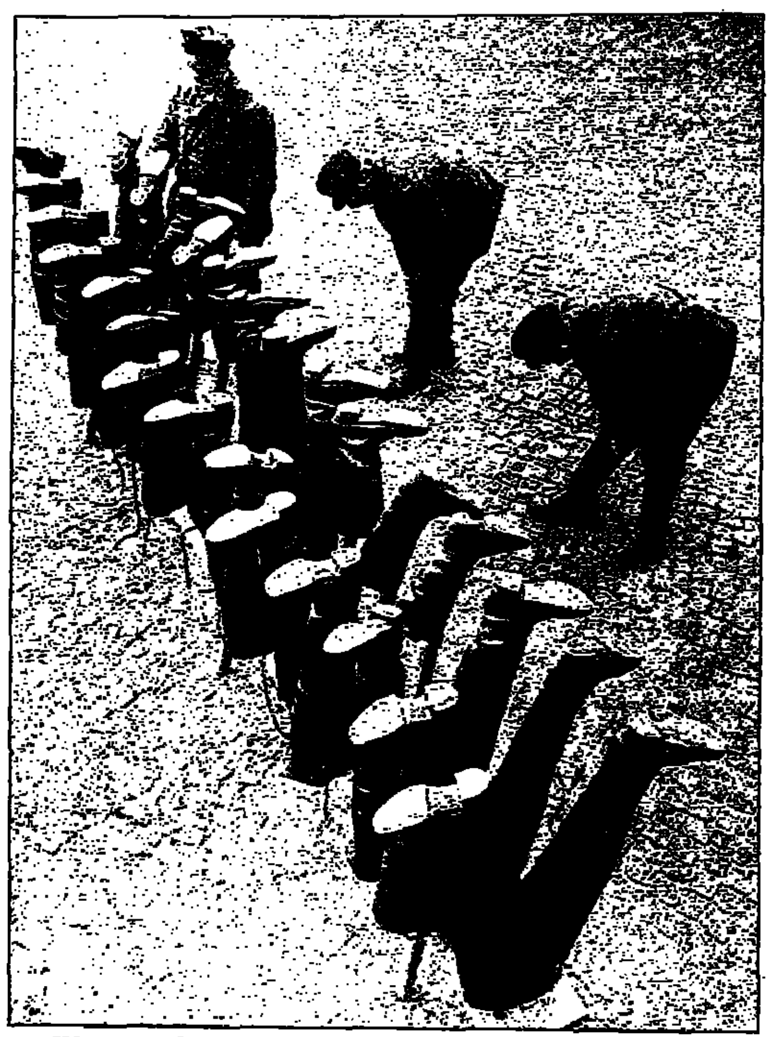
☐ **Weegee's** work is familiar to many, but even cognoscenti of one of the world's most successful news photographers should visit this exhibition, which consists of more than 50 images from the 1940s. Weegee's ability to capture the full drama, gore, intimacy, emotion and spectacle of New York City made him into a celebrity, earning the Austrian immigrant assignments from *Life* and *Vogue*. Weegee was even the subject of a recent film, *Public Eye*, starring Joe Pesci.

Much of his early work is particularly grisly, especially the images of the recently maimed, killed or murdered. Weegee, whose real name was Arthur Fellig, kept a police radio in his car, which enabled him to beat his rivals to crime scenes.

Although he is best known for images of brutality, much of Weegee's work is considerably more upbeat. His pictures of the crowds on the beach at Coney Island are joyous, and particularly so is the famous *Summer Comfort*, in which a group of children stand next to a spurting fire hydrant — a scene memorably aped by Francis Ford Coppola in *The Godfather*. When Weegee tired of crime photography, he turned his lens towards New York socialites, capturing the absurdity of their finery in relation to the streets.

London Projects, 1-2 Ellis Street, London SW1 (0171-734 1723) until December 22

☐ Much business sponsorship comes in the form of cash rather than commission. Donations are of course hard to fault, but it is pleasing to see companies setting some form of artistic agenda. Recently a firm of City solicitors, Rowe & Maw, commissioned **Noel Myles** to depict the effects of the last 100 years on the City lawyer.



Waterproof waders for the Berlin sewers, one of the curious and arresting images from *German Photographs of the 1930s*

Although Myles trained as a painter, since 1984 his work has largely been in the medium of photocollage, the results of which are impressive and fun to look at. Myles produced three large collages for the firm. *The Centenary* depicts the changing nature of communication and its impact on the profession with barristers talking to each other in the shadow of Lincoln's Inn, plus satellite dishes and the Internet. *The City* shows London in its capacity as one of the planet's centres of commerce — a busy amalgam of dealing rooms, post-modern architecture, railway trains and construction. *The Client*, the most striking of all the collages, displays the worlds of music, printing, publishing, manufacture and entertainment. Above all, what is most heartening about these images is their revelation that the law isn't always an ass.

Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milsom Street, Bath (01225 462841), until mid-January

GUY WALTERS

The Photographers' Gallery is playing host to a range of anthropological artefacts, culled from a variety of collections, in an exhibition curated by the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI). An array of 19th and early 20th-century photographs and documents is displayed alongside the work of three contemporary artists, Zarina Bhimji, Faisal Abdu'Allah and Dave Lewis, who were commissioned to respond both to the 19th-century image of non-Western man, and to current anthropological debates.

Dave Lewis's photographs juxtapose a naked male black model with photographs and paintings of the clothed, white RAI workforce. Nakedness suggested a "natural" existence to the 19th-century white anthropologist. Lewis uses a sense of spectacle to heighten the inherent gap between the people in anthropological photographs, and the men behind the cameras.

Faisal Abdu'Allah agrees that the hierarchies seen in photographs are important. But Abdu'Allah demands that viewers adopt a standpoint. He creates works on polished copper plates and mirrors, and thereby involves the viewer directly. Abdu'Allah suggests that non-Western people were once viewed as objects of desire, representing a mysterious "Other", and that this is still true today.

One of the works he has chosen to exhibit forms three sides of an open-topped cuboid, seven feet tall, mirrored within, and with a ramp inviting the viewer to enter. Once inside, your image is reflected over a grid system that Abdu'Allah has laid over the mirror. Opposite this work, old RAI lantern-slides show the same grid system being used to measure "foreign" skulls and features.

The work of all three artists is presented surrounded by the images that have prompted it. However, the exhibition itself is not didactic; the artefacts and images are allowed to speak for themselves.

Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 8 Great Newport St, London WC2 (0171-831 1772), until Jan 13

CHARLOTTE MULLINS

هدايا من الاهرام

■ YOUNG ARTS

And for my next trick: circus skills are passed on to the next generation

■ POP

The effortless appeal of Mr Hucknall is shown once more in Simply Red's Wembley gig

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

The vivacity of medieval carols is missing from a lacklustre concert by the Dufay Collective

■ MUSIC 2

The charity War Child benefits when John Williams and Carlos Bonell strum together

Roll up, roll up, to watch children learn the skills of the circus. A wary **Hilary Finch** enters the ring

It's all a question of balance

There are times when I seriously consider taking out a Young at Art insurance policy. A cassette-recorder and notepad are small protection against a posse of unicycles approaching at full pelt, or a rainstorm of flying knives. "Well, yeah, it could chop a carrot, yeah. And if you drop it on a wooden floor, it'll stick in . . ." This was a week ago in Leeds, at Circus Zanni. The youngest participant is four and juggles with a cloud of chiffon scarves. The oldest is 18, a national champion in unicycle hockey.

They meet every Monday evening for an hour and a half of gently monitored hair-raising activity. Jade Cracknell, 11, danced for seven years, tried judo and drama, got bored with the lot, and is now on the trapeze. She nearly ran me over juggling on stilts. Thomas Stephens, six, had a grandfather under the big top and, in his first attempt at "tightrope" walking, on an inverted bench, makes it to the end without a wobble, and within minutes is juggling as he goes.

Mesmerised by ten-year-old Michael Delucchi's progress across the room on a huge black globe, I was nearly mown down by Ian and Gavin Radforth, unicycle devils of Otley. They are in the national unicycle hockey league. "It's nice and fast, racing about wi' t'ball. Yes, you fall off, and a few spectators get hit. And you get muddled up with yer hands when you're gooin' for t'ball, 'cos you're riding so fast. But it makes a much better unicyclist out of you."

Their father, Brian, a motor mechanic by profession, is now turning his hand to unicycle manufacture. "You can get 'em six feet tall, y'know: three-tier unicycles. I'm only just beginning. This 'ere is the Rolls-Royce of unicycles. It were £200. We bought it in Holland."

Circus Zanni, which has 20 members aged between six and 18, was formed by Stephen Ward in 1992 as a founder member of the National Association of Youth Circus (NAYC), of which Ward is secretary. Skills developed in groups such as Zanni feed into professional training centres such as Circus Space in London, Circomedia in Bristol and Zippo's Academy. While Germany and the United States still have no umbrella organisation, the NAYC has got itself a sturdy constitution and an admirable Code of Practice.

STEVE FORREST/GUZELIAN

Children practise at Circus Zanni. The youngest member, aged four, can juggle expertly: the oldest, 18, is national champion in unicycle hockey

It offers training, guidance and support to 43 groups in the UK representing youth circus, youth theatre and professional circus. It takes a neutral stance in political debate, and organises insurance, training and first-aid schemes. And it is recognised by the European Federation for the Education of Occupational Travellers.

So how do groups like Zanni relate to the traditional travelling families? Ward unravels one or two of the knots in the safety net. "A sea-change is coming. Ten years ago there was a movement called New Circus, which grew from community roots as a reaction to traditional circus and particularly to the animal problem. As far as I'm concerned, New Circus has died the death — and we're moving towards a synthesis between traditional skills and circus which incorporates dance, music, drama. The Association of Circus Proprietors recognises that this is the way forward if circus is to survive. The NAYC has been sponsored by Gerry Cottle this year. And at festivals abroad we often use equipment provided by circus families."

Ward is a full-time teacher in theatre studies and has a master's degree in educational circus. He came to circus through commedia dell'arte and acrobatics. "It all has to be put into a dramatic context for me, otherwise it's just a parading of physical skills. A tightrope walker for me is an emblem of the tension between negative and positive, good and evil, success and failure."

YOUNG AT art

Ward's obsession with the transforming power of circus skills, particularly in children with physical, social and behavioural difficulties, led him to produce a resource pack for teachers to access all areas of the National Curriculum through circus skills.

He has a theory of what he calls super-learning. "Kids actually learn quicker through circus activities. I once met a physics teacher who was teaching gravity. So I offered to teach it my way. We threw the books into a corner, got rid of the desks, and spent the morning juggling. All balance skills are science-based: fulcra, inertia, forces. You can learn primary maths brilliantly through juggling. Geography through the ethnographic distribution of circus. History too."

And of course, all of the arts. "If drama is the carpet, circus is the underlay. The trouble is, it's still a minority activity. We're still a totally voluntary organisation. But people are beginning to sit up and listen. I had a fax yesterday from Kazakhstan, asking for information. Someone said the boom time is over, but I think it's still to come."

● *Information about the NAYC and lists of local youth circus groups from: Stephen Ward, 1 Moorgate Rise, Kippax, Leeds LS25 7RG. Telephone and fax: 0113-287 6080*

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Original thinking in need of practice

Dufay Collective
St John's

SINCE its formation in 1987, the Dufay Collective has built an enviable reputation as a versatile, invigorating interpreter of medieval and Renaissance music. Its contribution to the Magenta Christmas Festival at St John's, entitled *Thys Yool: Music for a Tudor Christmas*, was a typically inventive programme, competently rather than brilliantly performed, and somewhat lacking the high-voltage charge with which the ensemble is usually identified.

Three instrumentalists covered most of the bases: everything from recorders and shawms (sounding more than ever untamed here) to slide trumpets and sackbuts. Two more provided virginals, harp and lute. But this versatility has a flaw: too many instruments are simply not played well enough. And when the members of the Collective broke into song, I thought I was listening to carols round the Christmas tree at Brent Cross shopping centre.

In their defence, it could be argued that musicians of the period were not specialists in the modern sense, and that their adaptability gave their music-making a spontaneity that many present-day interpretations have lost. That argument would be easier to accept if these performances had had real fire in their belly. Dufay's *Ce jour de l'an* and various anonymous 15th-century dances offered some raw timbres and lively rhythms. But the razor-sharp edges yielded only by the highest virtuosity eluded them.

The problem was compounded by their two guest vocalists. John Potter comes bearing the credentials of the Hilliard Ensemble, and his singing exemplifies their refinement: his account of Henry VII's *Grene groweth the Holy* was exquisite. Vivien Ellis, with her colourless, one-dimensional tone and dialect-inflected pronunciation, tends more towards the ethos of the Collective. The songs in which the singers combined demonstrated two quite different approaches to the repertoire.

The doleful strains of the anonymous 16th-century *Wher be ye my Love?*, however, suited Ellis's plangent delivery ideally, and this song formed part of a group of items in which the performers were heard at their best. It also included a prelude and three anonymous dances played stylishly on the lute by Jacob Heringman, and an intabulation of a Sermisy chanson given by Peter Skuce on the virginals.

This is an ensemble of genuine musical talents, but other groups have shown that there is no necessary contradiction between an animated, earthy delivery and supreme professionalism.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Charitable guitars

Williams/Bonell
Wigmore Hall

IT WAS the night of the long thumbnails. John Williams, Carlos Bonell, friends and relations had filled the Wigmore Hall to overflowing for an evening of guitar music from Telemann to Takemitsu. It was all in aid of War Child, a charity which has been trucking food, clothing and medical supplies to Bosnia and setting up an important children's music centre in Mostar.

In the light of all this it would be more than churlish to comment on the light weight and heavy length of the programme, so I shall speed ahead to the evening's high points. Originally written for two lutes, Telemann's *Polish Suite* was played by Williams and Bonell with coppery tone, ornaments nicely agreed, phrase endings trilled and teased with glee and great style. Falla's *Ritual Fire Dance* was a twin peak: Bonell, his son Dario Rossetti-Bonell and bass-player Tom Herbert re-created a polyphony of thrummings and motifs whose constantly shifting sonorities leapt high in the hall's vivid acoustics.

Flautist Nicholas Cartledge joined Rossetti-Bonell and Herbert for a jazz triptych. Duke Ellington's *Don't Get Around Much Anymore* revealed Herbert as a mean bassist and Cartledge as an Ariel of the flute. Jobim's *How Insensitive* opened up choruses for a sultry alto flute and for guitar, while Chick Corea's *Spain*, starting with a marvellous meditative rhapsody by Rossetti-Bonell, succeeded in wittily dislocating Hispanic cliché and image while retaining a vivid sense of place.

Albéniz's skill in celebrating and universalising the local is legendary, and Williams gave an exquisitely turned performance of *Cordoba*, a ghostly monastic choir of a piece resonating in jewelled architecture. Brouwer's *Cuban Landscape with Bells*, a highly original evocation in minimalist ostinati and notes and figures repeated in a spectrum of timbres, was re-created artfully by Bonell.

The first half ended with Williams and Bonell trawling their way through Giuliani's arrangement of the overture to *The Barber of Seville* (it really makes you appreciate Rossini's orchestration), and the second half with *Zapateado Caribe* by Barrios. At ten o'clock the party had only just begun.

HILARY FINCH

Leap into crime

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

IN 1958, Agatha Christie's mystery *The Mousetrap* became the longest-running show in the history of British theatre. In 1995, it is still running, into its 44th year as the classic stage whodunit. Now Theatre Club members have the chance to become members of an even more exclusive club — those who have seen the play on its least-frequent date of performance. On February 29, we have booked St Martin's Theatre, in the West End, to host a leap year *Mousetrap* with a difference. Members will be given a copy of *The Mousetrap Story* (normally £4) per couple, and there will be a talk by David Turner, artistic director of Mousetrap Productions.

Tickets are £14 (stall and dress circle), £10 (upper circle) and £5 (balcony seats) — a saving of up to £8. To apply for tickets, send details of your full name, address and the price and number of tickets required to: Mousetrap Private Performance, Centre Stage, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW. Please make cheques payable to Centre Stage. A number of packages deals are also available. Choose from dinner before or after the show; after-show dinner/cabaret and hotel deals.

JOIN NOW

TO JOIN the Theatre Club *either send a cheque for* £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days *for delivery of your* membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

TO BOOK, please phone *the listed number during* normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive is the special price negotiated by the *Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge* to cover postage. Every week, members can save money, meet the cast and directors of productions, or visit different theatres on exclusive weekend breaks.

LONDON
Wyndham's Theatre
Dec 27-30

● IN A climate of sexual hypocrisy, a wilful young widow discovers love for the second time. But when news of her marriage reaches her obsessive and sadistic brothers, they vow to destroy her. *The Duchess of Malfi*, John Webster's explosive study of evil, is as sensational today in Cheek by Jowl's production as when it first shook Jacobean audiences. Members can buy two top-price tickets for the price of one (normally £17 to £19) for 7.30pm performances on Dec 27-30 and the 2.30pm matinee on Dec 30. Tel 0171-369 1746

Lyric Theatre
Dec 27, 29; Jan 2-3

● TICKETS £6.25 (normally £12.50) for 11am performances of the pantomime, *Hansel and Gretel*. Tel 0181-741 2311

OTHER OFFERS

STIRLING
MacRoberts Arts Centre
Jan 2-6

● STUART PATERSON'S version of the classic fairy tale, *The Snow Queen*, is a ravishing mixture of music, sumptuous costumes and stunning sets. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9) for evening performances and the matinees on Jan 2 and 3. Tel 01786 461081

CHESTERFIELD
Pomegranate Theatre
Jan 2-5

● SAVE 20 per cent on tickets (normally £6.50) for 7pm performances of *The Little Mermaid*. Tel 01246 232901

PRESTON
Charter Theatre
Dec 26-30, Jan 1

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.95 and £7.95) for the 7pm performances of the pantomime *Aladdin*. Tel 01772 258858

LEICESTER
Haymarket Theatre
Until Jan 13

● CLASSIC fairy tales are retold in *Grimm Tales*. Members can buy family tickets (two adults and up to three children) for only £26 (normally up to £38). Tel 0116-253 9797

WEYMOUTH
Pavilion Theatre
Jan 2-5

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.95 and £7.95) for the 7pm performances and the Jan 3 matinee of the pantomime *Aladdin*. Tel 01305 783225

Still holding back the years

POP

Simply Red
Wembley Arena

OASIS have Britain's top-selling album of 1995, Celine Dion its second, and somewhere not too far behind in the final listings can be found *Life* by Simply Red. Had Mick Hucknall released his fifth LP sooner rather than later in the year, the rankings might have turned out rather differently.

But no matter; such an achievement is impressive enough, ten years on from his first chart entry. At a time when many of his original peers have either faded away completely or are attempting their umpteenth comeback, the 35-year-old singer-songwriter's star is still in the ascendancy. *Fairground*, his recent No 1 single, was his first in this country.

Coming from similar north-western roots to new boys Oasis, but appealing inevitably to some of those middle-of-the-roaders now captivated by Dion, Hucknall is Britain's one true multi-denominational, multi-demographic pop star.

This commercial omnipotence is all the more impressive in that he is not a man given to trying too hard. There is something almost effortless about each Simply Red album, particularly the most recent. Despite its subtle updating of a trademark sound, *Life* is happily free of the ingratiating mannerisms and cloying sentimentality which are the stock-in-trade of many of the band's mainstream peers.

And so, too, with this opening performance in an itinerary that sees Hucknall filling arena-sized venues around Britain throughout January and February. The innovative staging — two small circular platforms on the Wembley floor, linked by a snaking walkway — may help to facilitate an intimacy unusual for so large a venue, but it is Hucknall's relaxed persona and unflashy artistry which seal the evening's mood.

ROBIN MAYES

Mick Hucknall starts his tour de force at Wembley Arena

And, with the first half of a 21-song set-list dominated by the less obviously attention-grabbing songs that so often emerge as the enduring pleasures within the band's catalogue — *So Many People, Enough* and *Never, Never Love* — the sense is confirmed that musicianship, not showmanship, remains his priority.

Aided by two elegantly stalking backing singers and one of the best bands to enliven a British stage this year (the contributions of guitarist Heitor Pereira and saxophonist Ian Kirkham in particular are a joy), Hucknall then moves on to embrace the pretty (*Holding Back the Years* and *Stars*), the political (*Money's too Tight to Mention*) and the cheerfully promiscuous (*Infidelity* and *The Right Thing*) sides of Simply Red.

‘Hucknall's voice remains an instrument rather than a weapon’

Each is executed immaculately, with genuine emotional force and yet without self-aggrandisement — a balance beyond the reach of most other domestic big-sellers of this ilk.

This is Hucknall's particular achievement. The sense remains of a man driven by his love of music, rather than a desire to be an icon or a popular hero.

The voice — glorious enough to cause a less well-balanced owner to become a raging ego-maniac — remains an instrument with a collective sound, rather than a weapon to be deployed in pursuit of applause.

Which makes this current run of concerts a must-see for fans. Simply Red — the band and the man — are on devastating form.

ALAN JACKSON

'Dazzling farce'
Guardian
Hysteria
Terry Johnson's
'custard pie of comic brilliance'
Time Out
Duke of York's 0171 836 5122

■ CHOICE 1

What the Dickens: Anthony Newley plays *Scrooge* in Bricusse's musical

VENUE: From tonight at the Bristol Hippodrome

■ CHOICE 2

. . . while Una Stubbs gets ready to fly in for *Peter Pan*

VENUE: Now at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Peter Nichols's *Privates on Parade* is revived with Tony Slattery as the gay officer

■ THEATRE 2

A great day for Norwich: the new Playhouse opens in a converted malthouse, with *Jumpers*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

PANTO IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE: The National Gallery may be one of the more unexpected panto venues, but gaiety does take over for the next few days for a family play staged by the Young National Trust Theatre. Join in for *Very Big Thing*, where three Victorian founders of the National Trust are in hot pursuit of a villainous factory owner. A tandem project with the Gallery's exhibition *In Trust for the Nation*.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) Entrance to the play (suitable for any age) is by free ticket, available one hour before each performance: 11.30am and 2.30pm; today-Fri and Dec 27-30 Ⓢ

JARVI CONDUCTS: Musical fireworks could well be on the cards tonight, as conductor Paavo Jarvi and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, both highly acclaimed in their own rights, take to the stage together for the first time. Violinist Thomas Zehetmair joins them for a programme of Berwald, Mendelssohn and Schumann.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). 7.45pm. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: The Hippodrome's festive fare opens with Anthony Newley in **Scrooge**, just transferred from the Alexandra in Birmingham. A deservedly popular show, written by Oscar-winner Leslie Bricusse.
Hippodrome, St Augustine's Parade (0117 929 9444) Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Contact box office for mat schedule. Until Feb 24. Ⓢ

LEEDS: David Bamber and Una Stubbs lead the cast in the Playhouse's Christmas show for younger audiences, **Peter Pan**. Matthew Warchus directs, complete with promises of lavish sets and gravity-defying feats of flying.
Quarry, West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Quarry, Hill Mount (0113 244 2111). Tonight, 7pm; until Feb 3. Ⓢ

MANCHESTER: Take a magic carpet ride with the Palace's panto, **Aladdin**. The uniquely ominous and bejewelled Mr T is the Genie of the Lamp, with Billy Pearce in the title role and illusionist extraordinaire Richard de Vere as the Emperor of China.
Palace, Oxford Street (0161-242 2503). Tonight, 7.30pm; until Feb 17. Ⓢ

SCARBOROUGH: Tim Supple's superb staging of the really bloodthirsty **Grimm Tales** makes for an amazing, enchanting evening. First seen at London's Young Vic last year and, truly, *not to be missed*. Kate Valentine directs.
Stephen Joseph, Valley Bridge Parade (01723 370541) Today, 10am; tomorrow, 7pm; contact box office for schedule. Until Dec 30 (2.30pm, not 7pm as first published) Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-636 1555) . . . **Hayward**: Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . . . **Peter Nahum at Leicester Galleries**: Victorian Faces and Faery Fantasies (0171-930 6059) . . . **Royal Academy**: David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine**: William Turnbull: sculpture and paintings (0171-723 9072) . . . **Tate**: Dynasties' Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England; Sketching the Sky: Turner watercolours (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: Jain Art from India; Back of the Envelope: famous art and design scribbles (0171-938 8500) . . . **Whitechapel**: Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **CAIN**: Marcus D'Amico plays the tormented hero, with John Carlisle as Lucifer, in Lord Byron's seldom staged yet fascinating verse drama.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight-Thurs, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

■ **COMPANY**: Sheila Gish and Adrian Lester in the cast of 14 for Sondheim's bittersweet musical on love, relationships and staying single. Sam Mendes directs.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

☐ **CYRANO**: The bittersweet love-story rethought as a battle within the Indian film industry. Bollywood star Naseeruddin Shah is a fine hero, and Ranjit Bolt's jokes are neat, but the new conflicts can't match those in the original.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Dec 28, 7.30pm; mats today, Dec 26 and 28, 2.30pm Ⓢ

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**: Sam Mendes's radiant production: Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden comes is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, plus Dec 28 and Jan 4, 3pm.

☐ **DEAD FUNNY**: Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans.
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm. Ⓢ

☐ **HYSTERIA**: Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

◪ **THE JUNGLE BOOK**: Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of three Mowgli stories. A refreshing relief from Disney cuteness.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Today, 10.30am and 2.30pm. Ⓢ

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

☐ **TALES FROM HOME**: The Besht Tellers return: along with the Jewish tales they tell so well, their new repertoire includes legends from Ireland, Africa and the Caribbean.
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed, 2pm and Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

◪ **TRAINSPOTTING**: Irving Walsh's blackest of black comedies, set on the wild side of Edinburgh: drugs, danger and vomit. A record-breaking tour.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 5pm.

◪ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amazing stage effects here but still delightful
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, daily in week of Dec 26, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Availability at time of going to press; check box office.**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cttg** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG): Revival of Cocteau's enchanting version of *Beauty and the Beast*, with Jean Marais and Josette Day.
Everyman Ⓢ (0171-435 1525) **NFT** (0171-928 3232) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE SHOOTER (18): US marshal (Dolph Lundgren) comes to Prague to prevent an assassination. Video fodder, directed by Ted Kotcheff.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE SWAN PRINCESS** (U): Wizard threatens wedding of Prince Derek and Princess Odette. Bland animated fairy tale. Director, Richard Rich.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE TIE THAT BINDS** (18): Nasty thriller about child adoption, with Keith Carradine and Daryl Hannah. Director, Wesley Strick.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THREE WISHES** (PG): Hobo spreads wisdom in the American suburbs. Dawdling romantic fantasy directed by Martha Coolidge, with Patrick Swayze and Mary-Elizabeth Mastrantonio.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15): What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much, even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director, Rob Reiner
Empire Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **MGM Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

◆ **DR. JEKYLL AND MS. HYDE** (12): Brash and unfunny comic update of Stevenson's story, with Tim Daly and Sean Young. Director, David Price.
UCI Whiteleys Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **GOLDENEYE**: (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15): Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama, with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater and Gary Oldman. Director, Marc Rocco.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U): Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

UNSTRUNG HEROES (PG): Diane Keaton directs this eccentric heart-warmer about a boy's charmed life with crazy relatives. With Nathan Watt, Andie MacDowell, John Turturro
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366)

Striking camp still strikes gold

THEATRE

Privates on Parade
Greenwich

I suspect that not all the funny things that occur in *Privates on Parade* were experienced by Peter Nichols when he was singing and dancing for the Combined Services Entertainment, aka Chaos Succeeds Ensa, in Malaya in 1948. Probably he did not hear a gay captain squawk "You dare speak to an officer like that and I'll scream the place down", or see a conjuror forced by a blackout to explain to rows of uncomprehending Gurkhas that "at this moment I'm producing coloured handkerchiefs from an empty cylinder".

Nevertheless, the piece has a chummy, anecdotal feel, as if Nichols were browsing through a scrapbook and chortling over half-remembered faces. Dear old Bonny (Paul Slack) who swears like sin while issuing soldiers "shoes, black, patent, dancing, tap, type Astaire, Fred"; wet Eric (Richard Wellings-Thomas) who threatens anybody who makes snide remarks about his girl back in New Malden with "a bunch of fives"; and, above all, Captain Terri Dennis, proud queen of the Queen's Own.

Terri is Nichols's prime illustration of the incongruity of turning troopers into troupers. Certainly Tony Slattery, who plays him, is amusing enough when he is bringing his bruiser's bulk to the task of doing Dietrich or Carmen Miranda parodies. What he misses is the warmth, dignity and subtle self-mockery that Denis Quilley brought to a role that, back in gay-bashing 1977, could easily have been a mere stereotype. For someone who believes himself "pretty as paint and witty too", he is chunky, stolid, and as credibly camp as an elephant with rouge on its trunk.

Still, there is plenty of merriment and music. Moreover, Nichols has fiddled with the play to its benefit since 1977, finding a nice, sensible alternative to the fake-happy ending in which his soldier-hero (Damien Matthews) suddenly changed his mind about chucking the Welsh-Indian girl (Claire Marchionne) he had got pregnant. There is also a new coda in which the Chinese-Malayan servants the troupe has gravely underrated throughout are seen elegantly strolling through Singapore with mobile phones, all to a news item about Nick Leeson.

That clinches one of Nichols's points, which is the myopia of the imperialist mindset. It does not, however, solve the evening's main problem, which is that, despite the changes, it remains stronger on incident than plot. Act I's prime source of tension, a gun-running sergeant bent on murder, dwindles into nothing. Act II, involving a major's attempts to plunge these khaki thesps into jungle battle, skims the edges of the preposterous.

Yet this weakness is also a strength, for Nicholas le Prevost turns the major into a hilariously ra-ra, out-of-touch English Quixote created by Betjeman from a Kipling original. Here is a man who can bark "No perfume on guard duty!" at a squaddie whose homosexuality he has not noticed, then commend him for his enthusiasm in practising female impersonation offstage: "That's the kind of keenness we like to see". I laughed often and freely.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Tony Slattery as Captain Terri Dennis and Paul Slack as Bonny in Peter Nichols's *Privates on Parade*

New space for major Tom

Jumpers
Norwich Playhouse

"NORWICH — A Fine City" is how the sign at the side of the road welcomes the traveller, listing the city's fine twins (or quads) beneath: Rouen, Koblenz, Novi Sad. I do not know what theatrical joys are offered in Rouen or Novi Sad, and though equally ignorant about Koblenz I am willing to risk a guess that it contains one item of value hitherto absent from Norwich: a repertory theatre.

Norwich has its recently refurbished Theatre Royal, but that is a receiving house. The Maddermarket Theatre, built in the 1920s, was the first since Cromwell's time to be constructed with an apron stage and gallery, but it is an amateur theatre.

The Theatre Royal can only take what is touring, and amateurs are not given the performing rights to new plays until the immediate professional interest is exhausted. As a result, Norwich has been obliged to trail some years behind drama's leading edge.

All this looks set to change with the opening of the new Playhouse on Gun Wharf, 72 per cent of its costs provided by 1,300 people, many of them local. In this converted malthouse the repertory will include new plays, recent plays and classics, perhaps even the occasional musical — although before they try one of those the theatre needs to be put through the acoustical equivalent of wheel-balancing, so that the miked songs do not batter eardrums in the back rows.

From the frontage on St George's Street the two-storey building has the look of a decently designed bank converted from something Georgian. Inside, the space is unexpectedly large. An L-shaped structure of bar, foyer and bookshop leads to the long, rectangular auditorium where a single tier slopes down to the wide stage. Brickwork along one wall has been left rough, and this, with the gentle slope and the colours elsewhere (pink and green) creates a welcoming, unpretentious air. It is a theatre space one could quickly come to love.

The stage's generous width allows all three acting areas in Stoppard's dazzling play — Dotty's bedroom, the hall and George's study — to be given ample space. The television screen is also large enough for all of us to see the surface of the Moon where Captain Scott and Astronaut Oates, first Englishmen in space, struggle for the one place on their crippled capsule.

This change in behaviour over 60 years (the play was first produced in 1972), from gentlemen in Antarctica to yobs on the Moon, is Stoppard's central worry in this play. Is a certain school of 20th-century philosophy responsible for discrediting notions of honour, good and beauty?

In the plot that tightly connects murder with adultery, a rationalist *coup d'état* and the painstaking preparation of a philosophical address, Stoppard wrote one of the funniest, most intelligent plays of that time. It is as stimulating today as then. Captain Scott will have finished his jail sentence by now and has discovered, as Stoppard foretold, that the world's standards of behaviour have caught up with his.

Timothy West (president of the Playhouse) is a gentle, tetchy, profoundly troubled George. He has the hunched, alert and sometimes playful attitude of an academic, and the bruised heart of a man whose wife's wits are wandering as her love withdraws. But while his quick thinking is entirely convincing, I was far less persuaded by the Dotty of Angharad Rees. From her delivery I doubted the supposed philosophical expertise, and also, I am afraid, her past as a cabaret star.

The quality of Guy Slater's production is therewith diminished. But having West in fine form, along with Michael Elwyn as a suave Vice-Chancellor and Peter Whitbread a humbly thoughtful caretaker, the play's ethical thrust and eminently quotable wit is strongly, enjoyably served.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

BLACKHEATH GALLERY 34a Tranquil Vale, Blackheath London SE3. Our twentieth **CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION** featuring David Hunt. Until 6 Jan 1995. Tel: 0181 852 1802

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton St, W1. 0171-493 2107. An exhibition of **MODERN BRITISH ARTISTS** 1900-1945. 27 Nov-20 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.

Louis Wain's Cats of Fame and Promise **Parkin Gallery**, 11 Motcomb St London SW1 Tel 0171 235 8144

MARLBOROUGH FINE ART 6 Albemarle St, W1. 0171-629 5161. **CHRISTOPHER BRAMHAM.** Until 26 January. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 10-12.30.

ROY MILES GALLERY. New works by **SERGEI CHEPIK** now on view. 29 Bruton Street, W1

SPINK. The Botanical Garden. Watercolours by Gillian Barlow. 29 Nov-22 Dec. Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm, Tues 9am-7.30pm. 5 King St SW1

OPERA & BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info.
Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Fri 7.30 **AIDA**
The Royal Ballet
Ton't 7.30 **TWYLA THARP ROSSINI BALLET**
Tomor 7.00 (First Night), Sat 1.00 & 6.00
LES PATINEURS/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER
Fri 12.00 (First Performance)
PETER AND THE WOLF/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 071 960 4242
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
THE NUTCRACKER
Until 6 January
SWAN LAKE
8-13 January

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS 0171 713 6000
LONDON CITY BALLET
CINDERELLA
Until Jan 6
Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats 27,29,30
Jan 6 at 2.30. No perfs Dec 24,25,31

THEATRES

ADELPHI
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal
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Winner of 7 Tony Awards including
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Recorded information 0171 379 8884
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY BO 0171 369 1730 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Grp 0171 413 3311
"FIVE STAR SHOW ...IRRESISTIBLE" D.Exp
FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE
SIXTH STOMPING YEAR
Mon-Thu 8pm Fri & Sat 6 & 8.45
LAST 4 WEEKS
Fri & Sat 6pm perf:Top 4 prices 2 for 1
No Performance Mon 25 Dec

AMBASSADORS
836 6111/420 0100/344 4444
For 6 weeks only
TRAINSPOTTING
Award-winning play from Irvine Welsh's novel
"Feverishly Funny" Guardian
Mon-Fri at 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 Wed Mat at 5

ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 420 0000 (no fee)
Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0
NIAMH CUSACK
MARGARET TYZACK
PAUL BHATTACHARJEE
INDIAN INK
"TOM STOPPARD'S TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY FIREBALL OF A PLAY TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END"
Today. Directed by PETER WOOD
LAST 3 WEEKS ENDS JAN 6

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail
White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50
NO PERF 25 DEC
EXTRA MAT 28 DEC AT 3PM

APOLLO 494 5060/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, 5 & 8.15
JENNY SEAGROVE
"Impeccable" Times
HAYLEY MILLS
"Magnificent" F.T
DEAD GUILTY
"Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER" S.Times

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE
B/O C.C 0171 388 8822 until Dec 30 Mon-Fri 11.30 & 3.00
W/C Dec 25 Tue-Sat 11.30 & 3.00
SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454
FAME
THE MUSICAL
"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday
"BREATHTAKING" Independent
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3pm
No Performance Mon 25 Dec

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
ZOE WANAMAKER in
THE GLASS MENAGERIE
by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00
LIMITED SEASON
Extra Mats 28 Dec & 4 Jan at 3pm
No Perfs 25, 26 Dec & 1 Jan

CRITERION 369 1747/420 0000/ 344 4444
JONATHAN HARVEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"wickedly funny...brilliantly comic" D.Mail
Tues-Sat 8, Sat 4, Sun 3 & 7
"NB 2 SUN PERFS AT 3 & 7"
"GALA OPENING TON'T, 7"

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200
GREASE
Starring SHANE RICHIE and SAMANTHA JANUS
"Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE
EXTRA MAT 28 DEC 3PM

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3pm
No performance Mon 25 Dec
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
0171 494 5000 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3, Sat 5 & 8.30 No Perf 25 Dec
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std
NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/8837 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24 hrs, no fee)
ROYAL COURT CLASSICS
Henry Goodman Aisling O'Sullivan
Fred Pearson Tim Potter
HYSTERIA
Terry Johnson's "CUSTARD PIE OF COMIC BRILLIANCE" Time Out
Best Comedy Olivier Award
FOR 7 WEEKS ONLY
Eves 7.30, Mat Sat 3pm
No Perf on Mon 25 Dec

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033
DAVID BURKE ANDREW HAVILL
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A real thrill of horror" S.Times
NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR
Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm
Extra Mat Dec 28 at 3pm

FORTUNE 0171 836 2238
"A real treat for 3-9 year olds" Gdn
THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP
Today at 1.30 & 3.30

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee)
WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS
The Royal National Theatre production
JB Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail
"ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s" E.S
"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D.Tel
FINAL LONDON SEASON
Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30
Extra mat Dec 28 at 2.30

GIELGUD Shaftesbury Ave inc cc 0171 494 5530 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454
JULIA McKENZIE
COMMUNICATING DOORS
by ALAN AYCKBOURN
"A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D.Tel
"with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
No Performance Mon 25 Dec

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee)
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
ALAN BATES GEMMA JONES
'superb' Times 'marvellous' Gdn
THE MASTER BUILDER
'Peter Hall's fine new staging' D.Tel
'Not to be missed on any account' S.Tms
ONLY 4 MORE WEEKS!
Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3pm

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO DEC 96
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00.
Apply to Box Office daily for returns
Extra Mat Thu 28 Dec at 3.00
No perf Mon 25 Dec

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 420 0200
JIM DALE
RETURNS TO THE WEST END
"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail
OLIVER!
2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR
"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 2.30
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYRIC Shafts Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5560 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee)
Nichola McAuliffe
Graham Turner
and Frank Thornton
HOBSON'S CHOICE
by Harold Brighouse
"MAGNIFICENT...an evening that brims with laughter" D.Tel
"Frank Hauser's deliciously piquant revival is A DELIGHT" Std
Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
EXTENDED TO 3 FEB

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252: Grps 0171 620 0741;24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000
OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15 **VOLPONE** Ben Jonson. Tomor 7.15 **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler
LYTTLETON Today 2.15 & 7.30 **THE WAY OF THE WORLD** William Congreve. Tomor 7.30 **WILD OATS** John O'Keeffe
COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30, Tomor 7.30 **CYRANO** Edmond Rostand, adapted by Jatinder Verma, rendered into verse by Ranjit Bolt

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
Extra Mats 27, 28 Dec at 3pm
No Mat 26 Dec
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 6655/312 8034
The Royal National Theatre's
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS
"AN ABSOLUTE WINNER" Time Out
MATCHLESS PERFORMANCES... UTTERLY ENCHANTING...A SMALL MASTERPIECE" Daily Mail
"A WONDERFUL EVENING" F.T
"AN IRRESISTIBLE PIECE OF THEATRE" LNR
Some Good Seats Still Available Before Christmas
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm
Extra mats Dec 26,28,29 at 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 2.30
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
DAVID CASSIDY
STARS FOR 3 WEEKS ONLY IN WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
CARL WAYNE
"...brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4
"EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3"

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321
"WINNER!"
BEST MUSICAL
Evening Standard Award '95
"ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS LONDON HAS SEEN FOR YEARS" D.Express
"JERRY HERMAN'S WONDERFUL BURST OF MUSICAL FIREWORKS" D.Mail
MACK & MABEL
THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE
Mon-Sat at 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00
Extra Mat Thurs Dec 28 at 3.00
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL FOR MOST PERFS

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444
AN ALL STAR CAST IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
FUNNY MONEY
"LAUGHS GALORE...A WINNER" D. Exp
"Better than Feydeau...priceless" D. Tel
Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00
"EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3"

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123.
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards 93
'YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT' D.Mail
CRAZY FOR YOU
"PUTS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS BACK IN THE WEST END IN DAZZLING STYLE" Mail On Sun
Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 3pm
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5972/420 0232/344 4444/416 6052 Grps 0171 420 0200/413 3321
TOMMY STEELE
WHAT A SHOW
'Tommy's Show packs Flash, Bang, Wallop' Eve Standard
Evgs Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Wed 3pm Sat 5pm
For a Limited Season

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200
Cameron Mackintosh presents
MARTIN GUERRE
A New Musical by BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG
FROM 22 MAY 1996

QUEENS BO/CC (£1 bkg fee) 0171 494 5040/344 4444
Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 8.45pm
Sat 23 Dec 6pm only no perf Dec 25
LILY SAVAGE
PRISONER CELL-BLOCK H
THE MUSICAL
"Hilarious" F.T.
"A Huge Hit - A Christmas Smash" Obs
4 WEEKS ONLY!
Stalls & D.C. £12.50-£24.00, Upper Circle £8.50

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON
(0171 638 8891)
BARBICAN:
A CHRISTMAS CAROL Ton't 7.15
THE PIT: CAIN Ton't 7.15
STRATFORD (01789 295623)
RST: RICHARD III Ton't 7.30
SWAN: FAUST I Today 3.00
FAUST II Ton't 7.30
TOP: THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN Today 1.30 & 7.30

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 grps 312 1970 No bkg fee
BELINDA LANG KEVIN McNALLY
in Terry Johnson's award winning comedy
DEAD FUNNY
"Blissfully Witty and Wicked" Eve Stand
Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm
Sat mat 5pm & Wed mat 2.30pm

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee)
Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8
44th Year of Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
BUDDY
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
BUDDY
Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
7th HEAVENLY YEAR

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321
TOMMY
PAUL KEATING KIM WILDE
As Tommy As Mrs Walker
Previews 20 February. Opens 5 March

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 344 4444 (24hr/bkg fee)
IT'S BACK - 4 WEEKS ONLY FROM TON'T - 13 JAN INC MATS
RETURN TO THE
FORBIDDEN PLANET
THE COSMIC XMAS PARTY
"deliciously addictive" D.Tel
Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri, Sat 5 & 8.30
No perf on Mon 25 Dec
Extra mat Dec 27 at 2.30

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fee)
"For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see The RSC production of THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE" The Times
"This hugely enjoyable show" Daily Telegraph
Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm
Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm
No Performance Mon 25 Dec

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fee)
"For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see The RSC production of THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE" The Times
"This hugely enjoyable show" Daily Telegraph
Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm
Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/497 9977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee)
BRIAN CONLEY
"Gives the performance of the decade" Mail on Sunday
in
JOLSON
"A resounding hit" Sun. Tel
JOLSON
"Worth walking a million miles to see" D.Mail
JOLSON
Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Now booking to 28 Sep 96
Some good seats available on the day of perf

WHITEHALL 369 1735/344 4444/ 420 0000
"BEST NEW MUSICAL IN TOWN...BRILLIANT" MoS
ROY ORBISON STORY
GUEST-STARRING P.J. PROBY
½ PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
Tues-Thu 8, Fri, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, Sun 4

A magical Christmas adventure until 6th January
The ENCHANTED TOY SHOP
Fortune Theatre 0171 836 2238
"A real treat for 3-9 year olds" Guardian

[هذا من الأصل]

هدية من الاهرام

MBER 20 19

Dunwoody given ride on One Man at Kempton

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Dunwoody's greater experience helped him to win the mount on One Man

JOHN HALES, the owner of One Man, yesterday explained his decision to replace Tony Dobbin with Richard Dunwoody on the favourite for the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

After speaking to Gordon Richards, the trainer of the exciting grey, Hales issued a statement to end the "uncertainty" over riding arrangements. "There were concerns on my part that Tony Dobbin will only have returned to race-riding a little over one week prior to the big race on Boxing Day after his recent injury. I also took into consideration that it would be the first time in the King George for both horse and rider," the Shropshire-based businessman said.

"We now find that One Man, probably the youngest horse in the race, has now become favourite. We considered that with such a talented young horse, it may be wiser on this occasion to call on the experience and ability of Richard Dunwoody, who is available and who has had the experience of riding in this race on many previous occasions.

"In normal circumstances, we are very happy to have Tony Dobbin as our jockey and both Gordon and I look forward to seeing Tony ride our horse in the next race after the King George, which is likely to be in February."

The owner's final remarks inevitably leave open the possibility that if One Man fulfils expectations in the forthcoming weeks Dunwoody could be booked to take over for the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March.

Not surprisingly, Dobbin was disconsolate when he was told of the news by Richards after first lot at the trainer's Greystoke yard. "What have I done wrong?" the fresh-faced 23-year-old asked.

The answer, of course, is nothing. While that will hardly assuage his disappointment, Dobbin's time will come. Most owners, placed in Hales's shoes, would have taken the same decision, given the slight concern about Dobbin's fitness. Dunwoody is the best steeplechase jockey around and his supreme skill and experience can make the difference between victory and defeat, especially in big races, as Ascot racegoers and millions of viewers witnessed on Saturday when he partnered Unguided Missile to an unlikely success for Richards.

While Dobbin will bounce back from this setback, racing will find it tougher to cope with the swingeing £5 million reduction in planned expenditure agreed yesterday by the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

Despite the benefits arising from the 1 per cent cut in betting duty announced in the Budget, the substantial pruning is necessary because of the decline in betting turnover, mainly brought about the impact of the Lottery. The betting turnover slump means the levy paid by punters will be £2.3 million short of expectations for last year, and the shortfall this year will be around £6 million.

As expected, the brunt of the cutbacks will fall upon contributions to prize-money, which will be reduced from £32,985,000 to £29,529,000 in 1996-97. Originally, a 2.6 per cent increase in prize-money had been planned.

The cuts also apply to budgets covering Jockey Club race-day officials (£410,000 reduction in grant); breeders' prizes (£105,000); veterinary science and education (£184,000); appearance money scheme (£32,000); point-to-point (£18,000); breed societies (£39,000). A further £586,000 in savings have been found by deferring or cancelling schemes. But for the Chancellor's largesse, the cuts would have been far worse.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ALICE SMITH
(1.15 Ludlow)
Next best: Silver Shred
(3.15 Ludlow)

LUDLOW

THUNDERER

12.45 Commanchero	2.15 The Caumrue
1.15 Alice Smith	2.45 Mine's An Ace
1.45 Goldenswift	3.15 Silver Shred

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.15 SILVER SHRED.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

12.45 TANNERS CAVA CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,958: 2m 5f 110yd) (16 runners)

101	PF-03FR	PRECIOUS JUNO 15 (CD,F,S) (Miss B Murphy) G Charles-Jones 6-12-0	B Fenton	95
102	030-P21	BARRYBEN 13 (D,G) (Mrs M Brisbourne) W Brisbourne 6-11-13	R Massey (3)	92
103	P/221-30	COMMANCHERO 22 (D,F,G) (J Mursell) R Hodges 8-11-11	T Dascombe (3)	[illegible]
104	00-PP0P	BOOGIE BOPPER 36 (B,S) (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 6-10-13	B Moore (7)	–
105	5P0	HONG KONG DESIGNER 7 (Group 1 Racing (1994) Ltd) A James 3-10-13	S Joynes (5)	81
106	0/43/3-P	RADAR KNIGHT 21 (R Brassey) J Peacock 7-10-12	Philip Hughes (5)	83
107	U45	KREEF 13 (H S Racing) R Curtis 3-10-10	G Crone (5)	92
108	40UP46	FORCING TWO 13 (B) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-8	D Walsh (3)	92
109	PPP-U	HAPPY DEAL 21 (V) (F Phillips) B Preece 9-10-4	G Hogan	–
110	345P40	PENARTH 20 (F) (B Davies) R Price 9-10-2	Guy Lewis	91
111	00P-53P	QUICK DECISION 20 (V) (Mrs E Cresswell) J Cresswell 4-10-0	G Tormey	89
112	06/001-P	DAMCADA 28 (D,S) (E4 Racing) A Carroll 7-10-0	D Leahy	97
113	000	HORSETRADER 12 (J Meredith) B Baugh 3-10-0	P McLoughlin	–
114	065-303	ITS GRAND 13 (Avon & West Racing Club Ltd) J Bradley 6-10-0	R Johnson	89
115	00-33P0	DRAGONMIST 21 (D Roderick) F Jordan 5-10-0	S Curran	88
116	P-00	STYLISH BLAKE 15 (J Doney) R Hollinshead 6-10-0	M W Martin (5)	–

Long handicap: Quick Decision 9-13, Damcada 9-13, Horsetrader 9-11, Its Grand 9-10, Dragonmist 9-9, Stylish Blake 9-8.

BETTING: 7-2 Barryben, 6-1 Commanchero, 7-1 Its Grand, Forcing Two, 8-1 Kreef, 12-1 Precious Juno, 14-1 Radar Knight, 16-1 others.

1994: STAR MOVER 5-12-0 T Murphy (11-2) W G M Turner 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

BARRYBEN beat Trevveethan 2½l in 7-runner conditional jockeys selling handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good) with ITS GRAND (2lb better off) 3l 3rd. COMMANCHERO beat Qualitair Memory 10l in 11-runner selling handicap hurdle at *Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, firm) August 1994. RADAR* KNIGHT 25l 3rd of 4 to Great Marquess in novice *hurdle* at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start.
KREEF 5¼l 5th of 9 to Izza Spin in juvenile hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good). FORCING TWO 28¾l 6th of 9 to Norman's Convinced in selling hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good). QUICK DECISION 24l 4th of 8 to Little Blackfoot in selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft) *penultimate start with FORCING TWO (1lb worse* off) 3l 4th. DRAGONMIST best effort 10½l 3rd of 6 to Exclusion in conditional jockeys selling handicap hurdle here (2m, firm)
Selection: BARRYBEN

1.15 TANNERS CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,436: 3m) (8 runners)

201	P063-55	PETTY BRIDGE 39 (D,F,G,S) (C & R Boucton) A James 11-12-0	A Maguire	92
202	113533	MUTUAL TRUST 12 (D,F,G,S) (M Bowling) P Hobbs 11-11-12	G Tormey (3)	[illegible]
203	F0223-1	NICKLUP 32 (F,S) (Lord Cadogan) T Forster 8-11-5	A Thornton	96
204	2/12314-	COASTING 420 (G,S) (The Shipcream Partnership) G Balding 9-10-10	A P McCoy	90
205	P3P4P-5	OPAL'S TENSPOT 7 (D,F,G,S) (Miss J Mates) J Bradley 8-10-2	R Johnson (3)	95
206	P41U-63	ALICE SMITH 13 (CD,G,S) (Mrs J Eckley) B Eckley 8-10-0	W McFarland	95
207	344423	VICTORY ANTHEM 13 (F,G) (P Gray Ltd) P Clarke 9-10-0	B Fenton (5)	93
208	64-R425	FOXGROVE 21 (F,G) (Mrs C Middleton) R Price 9-10-0	Miss E J Jones (7)	–

Long handicap: Victory Anthem 9-10, Foxgrove 9-0.

BETTING: 2-1 Nicklup, 5-2 *Mutual Trust*, 5-1 *Victory Anthem*, 6-1 Alice Smith, 8-1 Coasting, Petty Bridge, 10-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

PETTY BRIDGE best effort last season beat Willsford 1½l in 4-runner handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). MUTUAL TRUST 14l 3rd of 10 to Strong Medicine in conditional jockeys handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 5f, good)
NICKLUP beat Urban Cowboy 4l in 4-runner handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good to firm)
COASTING beat Ive Called Time 5l in 7-runner novice chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) penultimate start. OPAL'S TENSPOT 6½l 5th of 9 to Distinctive in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) ALICE SMITH 18l 3rd of 11 to Certain Angle in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good) VICTORY ANTHEM 13½l 3rd of 6 to Manerea in handicap chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good)
Selection: NICKLUP (nap)

1.45 HOECHST PANACUR EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,668: 2m 5f 110yd) (13 runners)

301	242F-14	CAILIN GLAS 22 (D,BF,F) (M Worcester) N Chance 6-11-5	D Finnegan (7)	90
302	0/6151	GOLDENSWIFT 26 (D,G) (Mrs S Watts) G Balding 5-11-5	A P McCoy	[illegible]
303	040-	CERIDWEN 298 (Mrs S Greathead) T Greathead 5-10-12	W Humphreys	–
304	5	CHOICE BAR 50 (Mrs A Frank) P Hobbs 5-10-12	Peter Hobbs	–
305	00	HOT DOG 23 (H Phipps) R Brotherton 5-10-12	L Harvey	–
306	0	*JAUNTY JUNE 16 (Mrs J Eckley) B Eckley 4-10-12*	*W McFarland*	–
307	6PP-6	KELLY'S FIDDLE 62 (R Bowden) Mrs H Parrott 5-10-12	Philip Hughes (7)	–
308	000-220	KOO'S PROMISE 19 (G Warren Ltd) C Popham 4-10-12	T Dascombe (5)	93
309	332	MENELAVE 62 (R Holt) O Sherwood 5-10-12	J Osborne	–
310	/PPP-	MINIATURE MELODY 262P (P Ritchens) P Ritchens 7-10-12	A Tory	–
311	6-3600	MUSICAL VOCATION 16 (D Portman) B Preece 4-10-12	G Hogan (3)	–
312	06	QUINAG 35 (I Buchan) K Bailey 4-10-12	R Dunwoody	–
313	00/0001-	STORMY PETREL 264 (F) (Mrs A MacEwan) P Walwyn 6-10-12	P Hide	–

BETTING: 5-4 Goldenswift, 3-1 Cailin Glas, 9-2 Menelave, 10-1 Stormy Petrel, Koo's Promise, 16-1 Choice Bar, 20-1 Quinag, 25-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

CAILIN GLAS beat Ryan Giggs 4l in 14-runner maiden hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good to firm) penultimate start. GOLDENSWIFT beat Clash Of Cymbals ¾l in 10-runner conditional jockeys novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good). CHOICE BAR 13l 5th of 15 to Supreme Kellycarra in National Hunt Flat race at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm) with QUINAG 1l 7th.
KOO'S PROMISE 1l 2nd of 9 to Chickabiddy in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good to firm) penultimate start. MENELAVE 4½l 2nd of 19 to Hilson in National Hunt Flat race at Tipperary (2m, good to yielding). QUINAG 25l 6th of 17 to Kentford Tina in National Hunt Flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good). STORMY PETREL beat Mikaroo 7l in 6-runner novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: GOLDENSWIFT

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

2.15 TANNERS WINES NOVICES CHASE (£4,566: 2m) (14 runners)

401	51-1613	REVE EN ROSE 27 (D,F,G,S) (M McMillan) M McMillan 9-11-7	J R Kavanagh	98
402	00-U405	*AL SKEET 43 (F) (R Price) R Price 9-11-3*	P McLoughlin	–
403	034-PP	BORO HILL 7 (R Allsop) R Allsop 6-11-3	Mr M Rimell	–
404	1F3334	HAVE A NIGHTCAP 13 (B,F,G,S) (R M Racecourses Ltd) N Littmoden 6-11-3	J F Titley	80
405	222505	HUGH DANIELS 46 (G) (M Ephgrave) B Preece 7-11-3	G Hogan	–
406	2363-U2	MANABOUTTHEHOUSE 8 (F Jarvey) G Thorner 8-11-3	R Johnson	[illegible]
407	P606/P0	OLLIVER DUCKETT 7 (Mrs J Sidebottom) Mrs J Sidebottom 6-11-3	Mr J Jukes	–
408	05/403	PUSEY STREET BOY 13 (F) (C Marks (Banbury)) J Bosley 8-11-3	M Bosley	75
409	0-3435F	ROYAL PRINT 16 (F,G,S) (Miss J Halford) W Muir 6-11-3	M Richards	–
410	FUB3-50	SIGMA RUN 12 (B) (B S Racing Partnership) J Edwards 6-11-3	T Jenks	–
411	30104-1	THE CAUMRUE 13 (G,S) (The On The Run Partnership) G Balding 7-11-3	A P McCoy	–
412	0/034U5-	WHERE'S WILLIE 299 (D Langdon) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-3	C Llewellyn	–
413	04/42P	DANTE'S DELIGHT 8 (P Jones) P Jones 7-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	88
414	/00203/	MOST INTERESTING 589 (F,S) (R Bowyer) G Jones 10-10-12	S McNeill	–

BETTING: 7-2 Reve En Rose, 9-2 The Caumrue, 5-1 Manabouthehouse, 7-1 Hugh Daniels, 8-1 Royal Print, 10-1 *Where's Willie, 12-1 Have A Nightcap, 14-1 others*

1994: MONDAY CLUB 10-11-9 S McNeill (2-1 fav) J Tuck 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

REVE EN ROSE 7¾l 3rd of 12 to Falmouth Bay in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good). HUGH DANIELS 30l 5th of 6 to Duddon Sands in beginners chase at Navan (2m, good)
MANABOUTTHEHOUSE ¾l 2nd of 7 to Le Chat Noir in conditional jockeys handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good) with DANTE'S DELIGHT pulled up 2 out. PUSEY STREET BOY 12l 3rd of 4 to Driving Force in handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 110yd, good). THE CAMRUE beat Sports View short-head in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) with HAVE A NIGHTCAP (8lb worse off) 29l 4th.
Selection: REVE EN ROSE

2.45 TANNERS BURGUNDY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,074: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

501	30-111F	EEZ-AWAY 20 (F,G) (Million In Mind Ptnrs) T Forster 6-11-10	A P McCoy	–
502	31/P1U-	MASTER ERYL 289 (C,D,F,S) (Mrs R Gulding) M Sheppard 12-11-5	Mr J M Pritchard	93
503	1222-4P	POWDER BOY 13 (F,G) (D Hurlord) R Hodges 10-11-0	R Dunwoody	90
504	21-1212	GOLDEN MADJAMBO 29 (CD,F) (T Roberts-Hindle) F Jordan 9-10-9	J Lodder	93
505	235613	RUPPLES 33 (C,F,G) (Exors of Mr C Hague) M Chapman 8-10-9	W Worthington	96
506	5F-2814	LUCKY AGAIN 23 (F,G) (R Weeks) C Popham 8-10-9	T Dascombe (5)	[illegible]
507	P23243	MINE'S AN ACE 18 (F,S) (M Knight) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 8-10-4	R Greene	98
508	454-PPP	BALLAD RULER 42 (G) (Woodlands Ltd) P Pritchard 9-10-0	R Johnson (3)	–
509	04P-04F	MONKS JAY 34 (J Cowe) G Thorner 6-10-0	B Powell	–

Long handicap: Ballad Ruler 8-9, Monks Jay 8-7.

BETTING: 9-4 Golden Madjambo, 3-1 Eez-Away, 7-2 Mine's An Ace, 7-1 Lucky Again, 8-1 Powder Boy, 10-1 Master Eryl, 12-1 Rupples, 20-1 others.

1994: PERCY SMOLLETT 6-10-0 A Maguire (4-1) D Nicholson 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

EEZ AWAY beat La Mode Lady 3½l in 7-runner handicap chase at Galway (2m 1f, good to firm) penultimate start. MASTER ERYL beat Wild Illusion 5l in 15-runner hunter chase here (2m, good to soft) penultimate start. GOLDEN MADJAMBO 1½l 2nd of 6 to Solo Gent in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). RUPPLES beat Cyril Henry 3½l in 4-runner handicap chase here (2m, firm). LUCKY AGAIN beat Victory Anthem 20l in 4-runner handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good to firm) penultimate start. MINE'S AN ACE 11¾l 3rd of 6 to Denver Bay in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to soft)
Selection: MINE'S AN ACE

3.15 TANNERS CLARET NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,374: 2m) (14 runners)

601	64	ALPHA LEATHER 28 (High Roost Racing) L Grassick 4-10-12	R Dunwoody	–
602	0-0	COLWALL 23 (Mrs Y Allsop) R Allsop 4-10-12	Mr M Rimell	–
603	2-P0	DIVINER 19 (P Oldfield) I Balding 6-10-12	G Bradley	–
604	5162-0	FELDSPAR 21 (S) (Mrs J Bissill) J Edwards 6-10-12	R Johnson (3)	–
605	0/U-65	JIMMY-JADE 35 (G Chamberlain) A Chamberlain 6-10-12	B Powell	78
606	00U	MILO BOY 33 (A Norris) M Chapman 4-10-12	W Worthington	–
607	0-0	ROYAL SILVER 23 (Broughton Homes Ltd) T Forster 4-10-12	A P McCoy	–
608	3-10	SUCCOTASH 19 (G) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 4-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	79
609	01-0	WYNBERG 34 (F) (Mrs D Pridden) T Forster 4-10-12	A Maguire	75
610	1-25	YOUR RISK 19 (F) (The Sterling Bears) S Christian 5-10-12	J Osborne	79
611	004/0	BOOLAVOGUE 14 (N Murphy) O O'Neill 5-10-7	V Slattery	–
612		COOL MANDY (J Price) R Price 4-10-7	P McLoughlin	–
613	06034-0	HYDEMILLA 12 (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 5-10-7	G Hogan (3)	70
614	14-2	SILVER SHRED 14 (BF,F) (D Beresford) M Pipe 4-10-7	D Bridgwater	[illegible]

BETTING: Evens Silver Shred, 8-1 Succotash, Your Risk, Feldspar, 10-1 Jimmy-Jade, 12-1 Wynberg, Alpha Leather, 14-1 Royal Silver, 16-1 others.

1994: TIR NA NOG 5-11-5 J Ryan (33-1) Miss L Shally 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALPHA LEATHER 20l 4th of 11 to Chaprassi in National Hunt Flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). DIVINER best effort head 2nd of 13 to Exterior Profiles in National Hunt Flat race at Warwick (2m, good to firm) with SUCCOTASH 2l 3rd and ROYAL SILVER 17l 7th.
FELDSPAR 5l 2nd of 20 to Anabranch in National Hunt Flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good) penultimate start. SUCCOTASH beat Tocid 4l in 13-runner National Hunt Flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good). WYNBERG beat Ih Only Young Once ½l in 14-runner National Hunt Flat race at Towcester (2m, good to firm) penultimate start. YOUR RISK 26½l 5th of 10 to Call Equiname in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with *SUCCOTASH 5½l 7th. SILVER SHRED* 4l 2nd of 16 to Supreme Lady in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) with BOOLAVOGUE tailed off 13th.
Selection: SUCCOTASH

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs J R-Barons	3	8	37.5	R Dunwoody	18	55	32.7
N Henderson	8	23	34.8	R Massey	4	13	30.8
K Bailey	14	51	27.5	A P McCoy	7	25	28.0
M Pipe	15	71	21.1	B Powell	8	34	23.5
P Hobbs	10	49	20.4	J Osborne	9	45	20.0
J Edwards	9	49	18.4	M A Fitzgerald	9	55	16.4

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Southwell

Going: good (good to firm in places)

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, Arctic Life (J Osborne, 13-8 fav); 2, Broad Outlook (9-1); 3, Uncle Bert (6-1). 8 ran. 4l, 11l. J Jenkins. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £7.60. CSF: £14.95.

1.15 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Cooiree (A P McCoy, 9-4); 2, Willie Makeit (10-1); 3, Lisaleen Wren (20-1). Celtic Silver 6-5 fav. 5 ran. 4l, 20l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £3.80. DF: £7.80. CSF: £18.29.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, Vleggio (Guy Lewis, 12-1); 2, Tony's Mist (2-1 fav); 3, Lord Glenvara (11-4). 13 ran. ½l, 3l. W Clay. Tote: £11.70; £2.70, £1.30, £1.30. DF: £18.70. Trio: £15.10. CSF: £36.50.

2.15 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Fixturessecretary (A Maguire, 4-5 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Amtrak (11-2). Only two finished. 6 ran. ¾l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £2.00. DF: £3.60. CSF: £5.49.

2.45 (2m ch) 1, Dear Do (M A Fitzgerald, 7-4 fav); 2, Herbert Buchanan (2-1); 3, Driving Force (7-2). 6 ran. 12l, 6l. N Henderson. Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £2.20. DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.35.

3.15 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Father O'Brien (A P McCoy, 11-4 fav); 2, Yes Man (4-1); 3, Dawn Flight (12-1). 12 ran. Sh hd, 2½l. J Edwards. Tote: £3.50; £1.20, £1.80, £3.20. DF: £4.40. Trio: £25.70. CSF: £14.79. Tricast: £111.00.

Placepot: £8.10. Quadpot: £8.10.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.00 (7f) 1, Samwar (R Hughes, Evens fav); 2, Errant (13-8); 3, Raffles Rooster (25-1). 9 ran. NR: La Sorrela. 6l, 2½l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £1.10, £2.10. DF: £1.10. Trio: £8.30. CSF: £2.88. La Sorrela (14-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in pound

12.30 (5f) 1, Miss Pickpocket (M Wigham, 6-4 fav); 2, Bouton D'Or (33-1); 3, Impington (7-4). 5 ran. 1¾l, nk. P Kelleway. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £2.50. DF: £23.80. CSF: £23.83.

1.00 (5f) 1, Super Rocky (H Bastiman, 9-2); 2, Distant Dynasty (11-1); 3, Cheeky Chappy (7-4 fav). 10 ran. 1l, 1½l. R Bastiman. Tote: £4.90; £1.30, £3.00, £1.20. DF: £32.40. Trio: £22.10. CSF: £49.87. Tricast: £109.59.

1.30 (7f) 1, Bubble Wings (W Woods, 4-1); 2, Fresh Fruit Daily (6-4 jt-fav); 3, Awasha (6-4 jt-fav). 10 ran. 3l, ½l. S Woods. Tote: £4.40; £1.20, £1.40, £1.20. DF: £13.90. Trio: £2.90. CSF: £11.34.

2.00 (1m 2f) 1, Renown (S Sanders, 11-4); 2, Kaafih Homm (13-8 fav); 3, No Speeches (5-1). 7 ran. Hd, 1¾l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £4.70; £2.50, £1.80. DF: £5.00. CSF: £7.23.

2.30 (6f) 1, Krystal Max (Kimberley Hart, 9-2); 2, Time Clash (3-1 fav); 3, Dancing Jack (6-1). 8 ran. ½l, hd. T Barron. Tote: £5.40; £1.50, £1.20, £2.10. DF: £9.40. CSF: £17.30. Tricast: £72.58.

3.00 (1m 5f) 1, Broughtons Formula (J Wilkinson, 13-8 fav; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Iron N Gold (12-1); 3, Just-Mana-Mou (11-1). 11 ran. NR: Call Me Albi. Nk, 7l. W Musson. Tote: *£2.30; £1.10, £3.20, £2.40. DF: £19.70. Trio:* £75.10. CSF: £18.65. Tricast: £139.82.

Jackpot: £9,889.20 (0.2 winning tickets. Pool of £11,154.05 carried forward to Ludlow today).

Placepot: £7.00. Quadpot: £4.70.

Express Gift heads Ladbroke betting

EXPRESS GIFT, trained by Mary Reveley, is the 10-1 favourite with the sponsor for The Ladbroke, a handicap hurdle, at Leopardstown next month. Two other British-trained runners, Cheryl's Lad and Chief's Song, are also prominent in the betting at 14-1. However, Nicky Henderson, the trainer of Cheryl's Lad, warned those thinking of supporting his charge to "hold your bets".

The impressive winner of his two starts this season, most recently at Cheltenham, is weighted at 9st 10lb, but Henderson fears that the testing going often encountered in Ireland during January could deny him the chance of running.

"He must have good ground and I would not recommend anyone backing him at this stage," he said. "He is going to run in a two-mile handicap hurdle at Kempton on Boxing Day and from there we will see."

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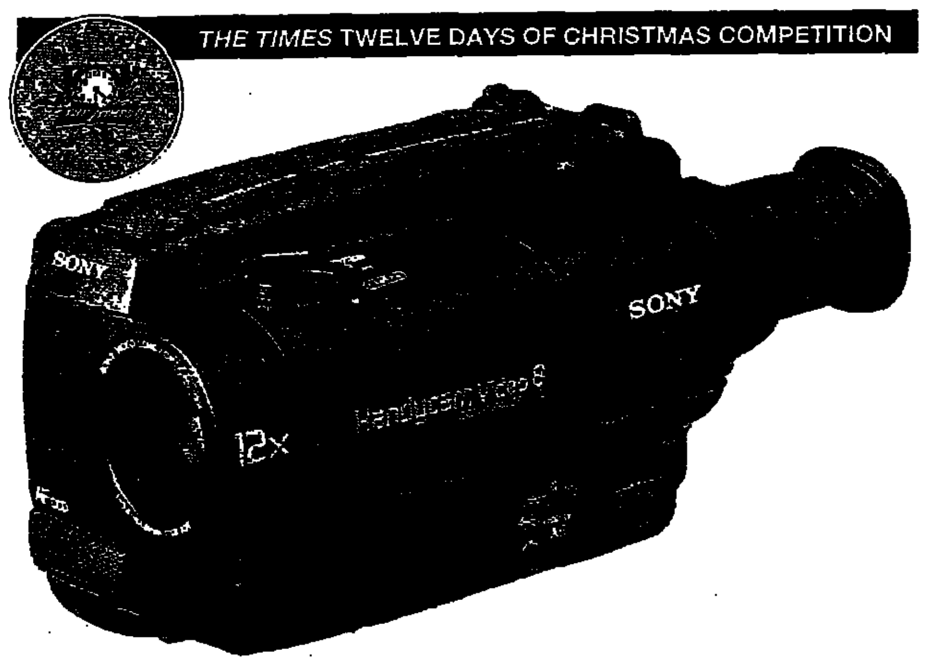
THE TIMES TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



Four Sony travel camcorders to be won

Today *The Times*, continuing our *Twelve Days of Christmas* competition, brings you the chance to win a Sony camcorder for recording those family highlights and mishaps you want to treasure. In the traditional carol, on the fourth day of Christmas, your true love would have sent you four calling birds, but your favourite newspaper knows today's readers would prefer the hours of fun a camcorder can bring the family, and we have four to give away as prizes. They are worth £699.99 each.

The Classic Compact Performer, Sony Travel Camcorder CCD-TR420 to give it its full technical name, is the result of a development of a portable system for camcorders after an agreement between 130 manufacturers which must say something about the abilities of the resulting format.

The obvious advantage of the pioneering Video 8 format is its compact size, although the quality of recording and playback are also excellent.

Although lightweight, the Sony camcorder is still powerfull. Headed by a 12X optical zoom lens, it will function in light levels as low as 0.8 lux. With programme AE to change the state of the shutter speed and aperture for different shooting conditions, the ten preset titles allow your home movie to be completed with a professional finish.

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HEXHAM

THUNDERER

12.30 Sunderland Echo. 1.00 Chopwell Curtains. 1.30 Beauchamp Grace. 2.00 The Laughing Lord. 2.30 IRISH GENT (nap). 3.00 Rachael's Owen. 3.30 Tullymurry Toff.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.30 NORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY CHALLENGE SERIES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,285: 2m) (14 runners)

1	0	CHEAP KNIGHT 28 Mrs J Goodfellow 4-11-0	L Wyer	–
2	232	DUKE OF PERTH 16 H Johnson 4-11-0	P Carberry	–
3	00-	GENERAL MUCK 220 (F) H Johnson 6-11-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	–
4	50	LORD RULLAH 28 J Wade 4-11-0	A S Smith	–
5		LOTHIAN COMMODORE G Richards 5-11-0	A Dobbin	–
6	5	SAYRAF DANCER 14 Mrs A Naughton 6-11-0	M Foster	61
7	65-	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 57F R McKellar 5-11-0	D Parker (3)	62
8	0-06	SHREWD THOUGHT 23 C Parker 4-11-0	B Storey	69
9	26	SUNDERLAND ECHO 22 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0	P Niven	[illegible]
10	6	TOP TATT 77 S Bell 5-11-0	M Dwyer	70
11	0	TROY'S DREAM 22 Mrs S Smith 4-11-0	R Guest	76
12	0-P0	ANASTASIA WINDSOR 11 D Moffatt 4-10-9	D J Moffatt	–
13	0-05	APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 21 J Goulding 7-10-9	D Bentley	–
14	24/	PRINCESS MAXINE 71F J J O'Neill 6-10-9	A Roche (3)	–

9-4 Sunderland Echo, 4-1 Lothian Commodore, 5-1 Duke of Perth, Princess Maxine, 6-1 General Muck, 16-1 Shrewd Thought, 20-1 Troy's Dream, 25-1 others.

1.00 HOLLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,598: 3m) (22)

1	0-1	BOLD ACCOUNT 25 (D,G) G Moore 5-11-5	N Bentley	92
2	15R1	CHOPWELL CURTAINS 18 (F,G) M H Easterby 5-11-5	L Wyer	[illegible]
3	44-1	SIERRA MADRONA 40 (V,D,G) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-0	J Railton	88
4	03	*AVOWHAT 44 J J O'Neill 5-10-12*	*R McGrath (7)*	85
5	5/-0	BECKLEY FOUNTAIN 25 H Johnson 7-10-12	Hugh Taylor	84
6	00P-	CARLEY LAD 326 G Richards 7-10-12	A Dobbin	–
7	0	CHERRY STONE 18 L Lungo 6-10-12	T Reed	–
8	6	DILLONS BRIDGE 44 J J O'Neill 6-10-12	A Roche (3)	–
9	0-33	GERMAN LEGEND 91 (CD,F) D Lamb 5-10-12	A Manners (7)	84
10	05-	GRAND ENTRY 228 Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12	R Hodge	–
11	0P-P	*JUST FOR ME 184 J Moore 5-10-12*	*B Harding (3)*	–
12	P	KENMARE RIVER 242P R Collins 5-10-12	P Niven	–
13	4P-P	KERAK 27 Miss M Milligan 5-10-12	M Foster	–
14	0	MAMICA 38 M Dods 5-10-12	N Smith	–
15	0P-0	POLAR GALE 22 W Reed 6-10-12	M Moloney	–
16		POLITICAL MISSILE F Murtagh 4-10-12	B Storey	–
17	55	RANDOM KING 88 J Wade 5-10-12	D Ryan (7)	–
18	40-0	*ROBARA 27 S Leadbetter 5-10-12*	*N Leach*	–
19	P-P	ANOTHER GIRL 21 J Haldane 8-10-7	F Leahy (3)	–
20	U-02	CORNKITTY 23 (G) A Thomson 8-10-7	D Parker (3)	89
21	36-3	PEEP O DAY 32 J Eyre 4-10-7	O Pears	84
22	-4U0	RASCALLY 12 Miss L Siddall 5-10-7	R Garritty	72

7-4 Chopwell Curtains, 7-2 Bold Account, 10-1 Sierra Madrona, 12-1 Grand Entry, Peep O Day, 14-1 Dillons Bridge, 16-1 others.

1.30 ROAST TURKEY NOVICES CHASE (£3,210: 2m 4f 110yd) (15)

1	233P	GORTNAMONA 60 (C,G) J Bewley 9-11-6	G Lee (3)	66
2	3-34	*MR FUDGE 11 (D,F,G) Mrs J Brown 8-11-4*	*E Callaghan (5)*	*89*
3	5-3F	CHIEF RAIDER 25 (G,S) J Wade 7-11-0	A S Smith	84
4	52-4	CHILL WIND 11 (F,G) N Bycroft 6-11-0	R Garritty	–
5	5	CHOISTY 59 Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-0	J Railton	–
6	31-6	COMMANDEER 23 (S) Miss M Milligan 5-11-0	R Guest	–
7	5-15	DEVILRY 22 (G,S) G Moore 5-11-0	J Callaghan	–
8	-F22	EARLYMORNING LIGHT 28 (G) G Richards 6-11-0	A Dobbin	[illegible]
9	04-0	*EXCISE MAN 28 (G) F Walton 7-11-0*	*Mr A Robson*	*84*
10	-504	MASTER OF TROY 18 (F,G,S) C Parker 7-11-0	D Parker (3)	–
11	P31-	MOREOF A GUNNER 305 (S) J Jefferson 5-11-0	R Davis	–
12	0-62	SOLBA 27 (G,S) C Parker 6-11-0	B Storey	78
13	33P-	BEAUCHAMP GRACE 277 (S) Mrs S Bramall 6-10-9	Mr K Whelan (5)	–
14	3P-F	SAGARO BELLE 22 A Crow 9-10-9	P Waggott	85
15	-112	SCILLY CAY 32 (BF,F) G Richards 6-10-9	B Harding (3)	–

11-4 Earlymorning Light, 5-1 Scilly Cay, 6-1 Moreof A Gunner, 7-1 Devilry, 8-1 Chief Raider, Solba, 12-1 others

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Hexham: 1.00 Sierra Madrona. Ludlow: *12.45 Forcing Two, Happy Deal.*

2.00 MISTLETOE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,725: 3m) (15)

1	60-3	THE LAUGHING LORD 16 (C,F,S) Miss L Russell 9-12-0	G Lee	90
2	05P-	ABBEY LAMP 380 H Johnson 6-11-12	S Haworth (3)	80
3	-006	HAUGHTON LAD 18 J Parkes 6-11-11	R McCarthy (5)	88
4	/44	DASHMAR 22 J Moore 8-11-8	B Harding	[illegible]
5	0-23	NEW CHARGES 23 (G) P Beaumont 8-11-6	B Grattan (3)	98
6	1344	TONY'S FEELINGS 40 (D,F) T Dyer 7-11-6	A Linton (5)	86
7	4/6	AURORA LAD 22 M Hammond 8-11-4	R Burns (5)	90
8	3223	GOLDMIRE 28 (C,BF,G) W Tinning 5-11-2	D Parker	85
9	P05-	SAND KING 247 (F) Miss L Russell 9-10-12	F Leahy	–
10	0-00	THARSIS 2 (D,F,G) W Storey 10-10-11	S Taylor (3)	89
11	60-6	HIGH PENHOWE 32 J Quinn 7-10-10	E Callaghan	98
12	/02	CIRCLE BOY 16 W Storey 8-10-7	R McGrath (3)	90
13	0-40	KITTOCHSIDE LAD 14 Mrs S Austin 5-10-0	E Husband	95
14	FUP-	RARE PADDY 243P B Rothwell 6-10-0	G Cahill (3)	–
15	00-P	ULTRAKAY 44 J Haynes 5-10-0	M Molloy (3)	–

9-2 Tony's Feelings, 5-1 New Charges, 6-1 Abbey Lamp, Dashmar, 7-1 The Laughing Lord, Goldmire, 8-1 Aurora Lad, 10-1 others.

2.30 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,002: 3m 1f) (13)

1	0-P0	MARCHWOOD 4 (G,S) N Chamberlain 8-12-0	B Harding (3)	89
2	123P	NINFA 7 (B,CD,F,G,S) G Richards 7-11-13	A Dobbin	94
3	111-	MAJIC RAIN 207 (CD,F,G,S) D Eddy 10-11-8	J Callaghan	90
4	-11F	EASBY JOKER 6 (C,BF,G,S) S Kettlewell 7-11-7	P Niven	92
5	422-	GOLDEN FIDDLE 235 (S) J Oliver 7-11-5	B Storey	86
6	P/6-	INCONCLUSIVE 214 (G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-0	J Burke	80
7	3-05	GALA WATER 28 (CD,S) T Dun 9-10-8	T Reed	93
8	4-F3	TUDOR FELLOW 18 J Wade 6-10-8	A S Smith	91
9	P-60	LUPY MINSTREL 25 (F,G,S) C Parker 10-10-7	D Parker (3)	–
10	26-5	GUNMETAL BOY 23 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 11-10-3	G Lee (3)	–
11	P1-5	*JENDEE 30 (S) J Hellens 7-10-3*	*R Guest*	*89*
12	/31	IRISH GENT 28 (CD,F,G) P Beaumont 9-10-2	R Supple	[illegible]
13	/00	POTATO MAN 14 (C,S) D Lamb 9-10-0	Mr K Whelan (5)	–

9-4 Easby Joker, 4-1 Irish Gent, 11-2 Ninfa, 6-1 Majic Rain, 8-1 Tudor Fellow, 10-1 Golden Fiddle, 12-1 Inconclusive, 20-1 others.

3.00 ST NICHOLAS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,301: 2m) (7)

1	2226	INNOCENT GEORGE 54 (F,G) Miss L Siddall 6-11-10	P Niven	95
2	640-	ANOTHER FOUNTAIN 305 J Dixon 9-11-10	B Storey	88
3	PP-6	MRS JAWLEYFORD 20 (CD,G,S) C Smith 7-11-9	M Ranger	83
4	-103	ERINY 14 (D,S) J Quinn 6-11-6	M Dwyer	91
5	463-	SCARBA 235 (CD,S) J Jefferson 7-11-6	R Davis	94
6	1201	RACHAEL'S OWEN 28 (CD,F,G) T Dyer 5-11-3	L Wyer	[illegible]
7	02/	SASKIA'S HERO 569 (D,G,S) J Bottomley 8-11-0	D Byrne	–

9-4 Rachael's Owen, 3-1 Eriny, 7-2 Scarba, 5-1 Innocent George, 12-1 Saskia's Hero, 14-1 Mrs Jawleyford, 16-1 Another Fountain.

3.30 LEVY BOARD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,298: 2m) (14)

1	03	BOWLANDS COUNTRY 44 G Moore 4-11-4	N Bentley	–
2	0-06	CHAIN LINE 16 J Aynsley 5-11-4	*M Moloney*	–
3	4	CORBLEU 28 S Bell 5-11-4	N Smith	–
4	05	MEESONS EXPRESS 16 D Eddy 5-11-4	B Storey	–
5		NAUTILUS THE THIRD M Hammond 4-11-4	Mr C Bonner (3)	–
6		RIVER NITH L Lungo 5-11-4	F Perratt (3)	–
7		TARTAN MIX J Moore 4-11-4	B Harding (3)	–
8	022	THE STITCHER 7 L Lungo 5-11-4	T Reed	–
9	9	*TULLYMURRY TOFF 22 J Jefferson 4-11-4*	*M Dwyer*	–
10	0	UK HYGIENE 22 M Hammond 5-11-4	R Burns (7)	–
11	0	DIDDY RYMER 21 Mrs S Smith 5-10-13	R Wilkinson (7)	–
12	5	MY MISSILE 88 R Cockburn 5-10-13	Mr C Mulhall	–
13	6	ROSIE 12 Mrs S Lamyman 5-10-13	J McLaughlin	–
14	0-5	SILVER PENNY 4 N Chamberlain 5-10-13	Miss C Metcalfe (7)	–

7-2 Tullymurry Toff, 4-1 River Nith, 9-2 The Stitcher, 5-1 Bowlands Country, 6-1 Corbleu, 8-1 Nautilus The Third, 12-1 Uk Hygiene, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Kettlewell, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%. L Lungo, 16 from 55, 29.1%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 58, 25.9%. G Richards, 19 from 80, 23.8%. H Johnson, 10 from 60, 16.7%; W Reed, 9 from 58, 15.5%.

JOCKEYS: N Bentley, 15 winners from 49 rides, 30.6%; N Leach, 3 from 10, 30.0%. T Reed, 25 from 94, 26.6%. P Niven, 19 from 78, 24.4%, A Dobbin, 17 from 81, 21.0%. B Harding, 6 from 30, 20.0%.

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Times writers give their Christmas selections of the best in sporting literature in 1995

Platt transfers his versatile talents from pitch to pen

IT HAS been an awful year for football books. Footballers by the score, it seems, are swapping their boots for the quill and penning their thoughts with the facility of seasoned journalists. This cannot go on.

There was a time, before wretched Nick Hornby proved that football literature was not an oxymoron, when the standard footballers' oeuvre consisted of a variation on the theme of "I done good, Brian", but Eamon Dunphy's diary of a season at Millwall hinted at better things and Garry Nelson has taken the cause of the dog-eared pro a step further with his *Left Foot Forward: A Year in the Life of a Journeyman Footballer*, which was shortlisted for the William Hill prize.

Not even that treasured work of art, the ghosted autobiography, is safe from this prowling football intelligentsia. David Platt wrote *Achieving the Goal* himself, though it is difficult to know where he found the time, with so much of his exemplary and lucrative career spent on the telephone, negotiating his next move. Platt loves the cut and thrust of transfers, not for the money so much as the challenge, the chance of improvement and, if the jury is still out on the success of his latest move to Arsenal, the world's most expensive footballer has given good value for his £22.15 million fees. And his telephone bills. The book is equally worthy, the style not far removed from his game. Simple, honest, thoughtful, seldom inspirational, occasionally abrasive.

Platt had the imagination to succeed in Italian football, but one classic story from his time at Sampdoria shows why so many fall headlong into the cultural divide. Towards the end of an unfulfilled season, the head of the *doriari*, the passionate supporters of Sampdoria, wrote to Roberto Mancini, the club captain, asking him if the team could do their pre-match callisthenics on the pitch, not in the tunnel before the next home game. The *doriari*, you see, felt they had earned the right to jeer the team, but did not want to be so disloyal during the game.

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So, at 3.30pm the next Sunday, the team went out onto the pitch, the crowd whistled for exactly two minutes before breaking into the traditional chants of "Doria, Doria" in time for kick-off. "We were united in what we failed to achieve," Platt wrote, "and gladly accepted the whistles." Shades of Elland Road, perhaps?

The diary is a more intimate literary form than the autobiography. The reader has to be shown inner thoughts, hidden emotions, personal doubts. Both Nelson's Charlton chronicle and the equally absorbing, *A Year in the Life*, by Alex Ferguson, edited by Peter Ball, of *The Times*, sustain that essential sense of whispered confidence. Ferguson, on the verge of greatness as a manager, admits to being tactically outwitted in United's defeat by Barcelona and tortures himself over the ultimate responsibility to the club, personal admiration for the player and the need to win pots during *L'affaire Cantona*. Ice Cold Alex revealed, in fact.

Objective judgment of Cantona has not been easy in any quarter, but Ian Ridley, master of the pun, provides an admirable balance in *The Red and the Black*, a title borrowed, as Cantona will doubtless know, from Stendhal. The biography is all the better for being unauthorised. Tom Watt's *Passion for the Game: Real Lives in Football* and *Kicking and Screaming*, the book of the BBC series, happily show that emotions in football can be expressed without resort to kung fu. Both are ideal for the quick dip rather than total immersion, while the *Footballers Factfile* is the official guide to every player on the books of the Professional Footballers' Association. You can tell it is official because it calls Vinnie Jones "tough tackling". Essential for every journalist, at least. Now where did I put my football boots?

☐ *Left Foot Forward*, by Garry Nelson (Headline, £12.99).
☐ *A Year in the Life*, by Alex Ferguson (Virgin, £12.99).
☐ *Achieving the Goal*, by David Platt (Richard Cohen Books, £12.99).
☐ *The Red and the Black*, by Ian Ridley (Gollancz, £14.99).
☐ *A Passion for the Game: Real Lives in Football*, by Tom Watt (Mainstream, £14.99).
☐ *Kicking and Screaming*, by Rogan Taylor and Andrew Ward (Robson Books, £16.95).
☐ *Footballers Factfile*, edited by Barry Hugman (Stanley Paul, £8.99).

ANDREW LONGMORE

Spurred to fame by childhood sorrow

THERE was a familiar theme running through many of the cricket biographies and autobiographies published in 1995, and perhaps it ran through those of other sports as well. It stated that, simple, uncomplicated types though they/we may appear, underneath they/we are really highly complex, misunderstood heroes.

Take the late Brian Johnston, veteran broadcaster and jester at the court of *Test Match Special* for so many years. No sunnier or more straightforward man in the world, surely?

Not so, said Tim Heald, his biographer. The driving forces behind Johnston's life were the drowning of his father and his mother's remarriage by the time that he was ten; any joke, any distraction helped to shut out the harshness of the real world. It is a persuasive thesis in a rounded and revealing portrait of a man who, for many, embodied cricket.

A similar argument forms part of *David Gower: A Man Out of Time*, by Rob Steen. Gower also had to cope with the early death of his father, as well as a lonely childhood in Africa, which may explain why he has guarded his emotions with as much skill and dexterity as he usually — but not always — did his stumps.

As the narrative makes clear, though, Gower has not escaped being hurt, either on or off the field. Mark Nicholas said that he has never known a man who had more people caring about him and a factor in Gower's decision to

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retire as a player after the 1993 season was that he felt slighted by his treatment at the hands of the England selectors. This is a timely review of an often glorious, sometimes turbulent career.

Ted Dexter, the subject of a biography by Alan Lee, *The Times* cricket correspondent, shared Gower's abundance of talent and apparent insouciance. Gower even described Dexter as a "kindred spirit"; perhaps more so than he realised. Dexter, as Lee's book amply charts, was adept at concealing from the public spotlight a private persona which was that of a painfully shy man, plagued by frustrated ambitions.

There is a thin line between a personal history that demands sympathy and plain whingeing, and it is a line that Martin Crowe's autobiography, *Out on a Limb: My Own Story*, crosses regularly. Crowe has had his trials to contend with, but it is sad that one so talented should linger so often over petty squabbles.

It required another book about Crowe, an unauthorised biography by Joseph Romanos, published in New Zealand, to point out that he was, when captain, not liked by many of his team-mates. Crowe's ruthless pursuit of batting perfection probably got in the way of his relationships and has almost certainly made it impossible for him to reflect with gratitude on a career that touched greatness.

☐ *Brian Johnston: The Authorised Biography*, by Tim Heald (Methuen, £14.99).
☐ *David Gower: A Man Out of Time*, by Rob Steen (Gollancz, £16.99).
☐ *Lord Ted: The Dexter Enigma*, by Alan Lee (Gollancz, £16.99).
☐ *Out On a Limb: My Own Story*, by Martin Crowe (Reed, £14.99).

SIMON WILDE

Arthur Thrill's stunning photograph of the fire that engulfed Jos Verstappen's Benetton Formula One car in the pit lane at the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim in 1994 won the colour gold lens award in the International Olympic Committee's best of sport photographic contest this year. Thrill's photograph features in *Best 7*, a celebration of the year's best sports photography.
☐ *Best 7* (Kensington West Productions, £19.99) ISBN 1871349087.

Inside story captures drama of life in fast lane

SOMETIMES, there might be something on a team owner or engineer thrown in for the sake of appearances, but the vast majority of modern motor racing books are devoted to either an individual driver or his team. This year has been no different, although there was a twist in its tail: the author and photographer who produced one of the best efforts of last year with their study of Damon Hill's season turned their attention to his Williams-Renault team this year.

Time and again, this genre degenerates into a worthy but tedious dissection of the anatomy of a team and esoteric discussions of the workings of the smallest parts. *Pole Position: the Inside Story of Williams-Renault*, manages to avoid this fate.

It does dig beneath the surface, examining the arduous role of the team manager, taking us through dramas such as the day when the catering manager had the tips of his fingers sliced off while he was trying to fix the motor-home en route to a race, but Maurice Hamilton's swift narrative and the superb pictures of Jon Nicolson, that turn simple factory shots of team personnel into fascinating portraits, never stray too far away from the racetrack where the drama is at its height.

If there are criticisms, the pictures could have been used bigger and the breadth of the subject necessitates a slightly broader, more syrupy canvas than the intimate study of Hill's turbulent year in 1994; but this effort almost makes up for that with its wider insight into the business of grand prix racing.

For individual studies, the pick of Formula One books this year is

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the autobiography of Nigel Mansell, meticulously researched and cleverly written by James Allen. It provoked some mirth among the sizeable anti-Mansell faction in grand prix racing because of its flat title — *Nigel Mansell: My Autobiography* — but, once they had got over that, even his detractors admitted it was an interesting read. A pithy final chapter, added at short notice, examines Mansell's ill-fated stay at McLaren at the beginning of the 1995 season.

McLaren, predictably, are also featured heavily in the updated, spruced-up version of Eoin Young's affectionate portrayal of the team's founder. *Bruce McLaren, the Man and his Racing Team*, explores the foundation of the team that made world champions out of Emerson Fittipaldi, James Hunt, Niki Lauda, Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna.

McLaren's assertion that "to do something well is so worthwhile that to die trying to do it better cannot be foolhardy" is one of a myriad of statements featured in Eugene Weber's *Grand Prix Book of Motor Racing Quotations*. Murray Walker is here in force, of course.

Finally, *The Death of Ayrton Senna*, by Richard Williams, is still a fascinating read 19 months after the death of the Brazilian three-times world champion, all the more so in the light of the recent burst of publicity about what may or may not be the causes of the accident that killed him in May 1994.

This study, combining an intimate look at his career with in-depth description of Senna's funeral and discussion of the events leading to his death, is small but perfectly formed. It is the pick of the year.

☐ *Pole Position, The Inside Story of Williams-Renault*, by Maurice Hamilton and Jon Nicolson (Macmillan, £20).
☐ *Nigel Mansell: My Autobiography* (Collins Willow, £16.99).
☐ *Bruce McLaren, the Man and his Racing Team*, by Eoin Young (Patrick Stephens Ltd, £15.99).
☐ *The Grand Prix Book of Motor Racing Quotations*, by Eugene Weber (Hodder and Stoughton, £14.99).
☐ *The Death of Ayrton Senna*, by Richard Williams (Viking, £12.50).

OLIVER HOLT

Christie's tale of the track runs out of steam before the tape

AFTER reading the two books on Linford Christie published this year, one thing is clear: neither on its own is sufficient. Between them, though, Christie's autobiography and an unauthorised biography tell as much as you would want to know — almost — of Great Britain's Olympic 100 metres champion.

To Be Honest With You is Christie's autobiography and, after saying in his introduction that he "can't complain", he does on several fronts. Nothing permeates the book so much as his unrelenting jibes at Frank Dick, Britain's former director of coaching. The intrusive media and the "shambles" of the drug-testing system also feature.

It seems curious for a man so dependent on close relationships — those with Mandy Miller, his long-time girlfriend, Colin Jackson, and his grandmother are covered in detail — that he appears content that his three children, by former partners, have played such a small part in his life. They are covered in fewer than five pages and only then in the context of Christie defending against scandal.

It does Christie credit, however, that he should not forget Les Jones; indeed, describe him as "a great man". Jones was the popular national team manager when he died three years ago and, were he alive today, one suspects some of the sport's controversies would have been avoided.

Christie's opinions and his readable recollections of childhood in Jamaica,

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arrival in Britain, and achievements as an athlete, are enlivened by some diverting stories, such as the time that he was giving a sample for a drugs test, squeezed the beaker, broke it, and covered the doctor in urine. Unfortunately, though, the insight into Christie's training is woefully inadequate and his account of the greatest 100 metres that ever was, the 1991 world championship in Tokyo — which rewrote the all-time list for the distance — is most disappointing.

Duncan Mackay will not be on Christie's Christmas card list for getting to the bookshelves first. When word was out that Christie's autobiography was imminent, a separate publisher asked Mackay for a biography, and fast.

Mackay showed impressive speed, gun to tape in less than a week, a writer's sub-10sec run. *Linford Christie* is held together by what the press has said and why it said it. Christie is not entirely the misrepresented figure he claims to be, as Mackay's version confirms.

☐ *To Be Honest With You: Linford Christie's Autobiography* (Michael Joseph, £16.99).
☐ *Linford Christie*, by Duncan Mackay (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £12.99).

DAVID POWELL

Fairley offers definitive history of art and the thoroughbred

EVEN if it were not a lean year for equestrian books, John Fairley's *The Art of the Horse* would stand head and shoulders above its rivals. Almost as glossy as the horses it depicts, this sumptuously illustrated book charts the history of the horse in art from the earliest cave paintings through the Greeks and Romans to Stubbs, Munnings and contemporary artists.

Fairley's text is witty, informative and minutely researched. The ancient Greeks had individual starting stalls for racing and devices for opening them; the Romans, whose love of racing is captured here in Alexander von Wagner's magnificent *The Chariot Race*, were the first to record racing form, results and breeding.

Two fine — unattributed — early examples of racehorses in art — *Miss Neasham* (1727), painted in front of Aldby Park in Yorkshire, and *Aleppo* (1727) — are used to place the English thoroughbred in its historical context. It was to Aldby in 1706 that the horse was dispatched that was to become known as the Darley Arabian, prepotent among the three stallions to whom all thoroughbreds now trace back. George Stubbs's *Whistlejacket* epitomises the almost reverential way that the thoroughbred was viewed in the 18th century. Fairley is unequivocal in his praise: "All Stubbs's years of study and dissection come to fruition in this inspiring portrayal of a thoroughbred in the grandeur of his prime."

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Linda Tellington-Jones, the author of *Getting in Touch with Horses*, would assess Whistlejacket's character merely by looking at his painting. Tellington-Jones, whose grandfather was the leading trainer for Tsar Nicholas II, identifies a horse's personality from the shape of its head and from its "swirls" — the distinctive patterns in the lay of the hair in an animal's coat. Tellington-Jones also claims to change or modify character by a variety of techniques — there is plenty of evidence here to suggest that it works.

The importance of assessing character is recognised by the three German trainers who have joined forces to write *Dressage Tips and Training Solutions*. Among the sound, practical advice given, the authors state that "many problems in the training of horses would not occur at all if their physical and psychological requirements were recognised".

☐ *The Art of The Horse*, by John Fairley (Abbeville Press, £29.95).
☐ *Getting in Touch with Horses*, by Linda Tellington-Jones with Sybil Taylor (Kenilworth Press, £14.95).
☐ *Dressage Tips and Training Solutions*, by Petra Holzel, Wolfgang Holzel and Martin Plewa (Kenilworth Press, £16.95).

JENNY MACARTHUR

Inspiring triumph against all odds

THE story of Theodore Cecile Thompson — the name "Cec" brings an instant recognition in rugby league — is an inspirational one, of a black northern Englishman and trailblazer, whose defiance of often painful odds and prejudice, on and off the field, is testimony to the enthusiasm that shines through a compelling autobiography.

Enthusiasm, Thompson writes, has been his greatest ally. It is to enthusiasm — "almost inexhaustible, constantly moving me forward, sweeping me into almost every department of my life" — that he dedicates his success. The virtues of modesty, dignity and courage are writ large in Thompson's own words — not bad for someone whose writing skills in his playing days did not extend beyond his autograph.

Rugby league was the escape from an early life of orphanages and dead-end jobs in Leeds. For his first match, in a work's team, he was simply instructed not to kick or pass the ball forward. His running and tackling were good enough after just two games for Hunslet to sign him in 1948 for £250. "Becoming a professional player in the Hunslet A team was like entering a dream world."

"Hunslet's living bronze," as the *Yorkshire Post* memorably referred to him, was the sport's first prominent black player. Four years after his first appearance, Eddie Waring wrote: "If Cec Thompson is not chosen for the Great

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Britain squad, the selectors must be racists."

Thompson's pace and power as a forward would easily have translated into the modern game. His playing career ended at Workington in 1962, but that is merely the half of it. His window-cleaning round became a successful industrial cleaning business, a few stabs at journalism turned into an honours degree in economics, a diploma in education eventually to head of economics and rugby master at Chesterfield Grammar School.

In a singular way, Thompson's self-advancement mirrors that of rugby league's first 100 years. The obligatory coffee table glossy for the centenary is lovingly and painstakingly penned by Geoffrey Moorhouse, whose eye for historic detail never gets in the way of another remarkable story.

Dean Bell's biography is excellent and, of the paperbacks, Trevor Delaney's lavish history of international venues and the combined efforts of Dave Farrar and Peter Lush in chronicling the game's history in London expertly fill two large holes.

☐ *Cec Thompson: Born on the Wrong Side* (Pentland Press, £14.99).
☐ *A People's Game: The Official History of Rugby League 1895-1995*, by Geoffrey Moorhouse (Hodder and Stoughton, £20).
☐ *Ultimate Warrior: The Dean Bell Story* (Victor Gollancz, £15.99).
☐ *The International Grounds of Rugby League* (Trevor Delaney, £15.95).
☐ *Touch and Go: A History of Professional Rugby League in London* (London League Publications, £9.00).

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

☐ *Steffi, A Biography — Public Power, Private Pain*, reviewed yesterday, was written by Sue Heady and not as reported.

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Cruel juggernaut of sport claims two more victims

MIDWEEK VIEW

SIMON BARNES

The world looks at sport in two ways, rapidly alternating from one to the other. The first is as a sugar candy world of glory and victory and passion; a pleasing escape from real life. The second is hurt and bewildered shock when people realise' that sport also involves rows, cheats, liars and passion run out of control.

The fact is that both views are right. Sport is not pure fun, nor is it pure ghastliness. Sport is a strange and terrible drama, that is all; and often, farce and despair walk hand in hand.

The point of farce was reached hilariously with Graeme Le Saux and David Batty, of Blackburn Rovers. A couple of weeks back, the pair got involved in a bout of fisticuffs in a match against Spartak Moscow. A lot of people were dreadfully shocked by this; as if every football team comprised 11 best friends, between whom the merest suggestion of a cross word was impossible. Yet all teams are the most tremendously volatile things; a team without rows must be as impossible — and as unstable — as a marriage without rows. The thing is to try to avoid having them in public.

Alas, poor Le Saux has moved, in a step, from farce to despair. On Saturday, he received a terrible injury; one that, we learn, may end his career. Nor can anyone be blamed. It was just football. A terrible accident in what is, after all, supposed to be a rough game.

Le Saux is, or was, an England player, one of those chaps of solid footballing worth, a man without extravagant gifts but with the happy knack of maximising the talents he has. Or had. Rotten luck.

So often, a sports injury seems to be a the most devilish kind of caprice. There is no comparing in seriousness the injuries of Le Saux with John Crawley, but Crawley's torn hamstring is also pretty rotten luck all the same.

Crawley has been a coming young man for rather too long. Desperate for success, but with the glittering prizes perpetually a shade beyond his grasp. At one time, he was seen as rather too tubby and unathletic; a poor fielder.

So he managed to lose two stone, started tearing about the outfield and even got himself a special "I'm-a-super-keenie" haircut. It worked. Finally, he keened himself back into the Test team. Then tore his hamstring. Fielding.

This is unlikely to be a career-ending injury, but it came at a devilishly bad time. Jason Gallian has now been flown in, and has already been promised Crawley's place in the next Test. Gallian's aim is obviously to make this permanent. All Crawley can do is stick ice on to his backside and pray for a chance to come round again; knowing that it might not.

Sport is a capricious business. Even Michael Atherton, flushed with a success of history-making proportions in the second Test, failed in the third. Yet in a way, failure is something you cater for. Mark Ramprakash may have suffered the most traumatic possible failure, but he has at least the grim solace that it was his own fault; that the redress lies only in himself.

For Crawley, and still worse for Le Saux, there is only the terrible atavistic cry of the playground; it is not fair. Because it is not: and it is the quality of total unfairness that lifts sport out of any comparison with normal professional life. In sport, doing your best can be a career-ending matter. Nobody will say that Barnes gave his all in that last paragraph but, as a result of his exertions, he will never write again.

There are many physically precarious professions, but perhaps only dance involves the risk that, by doing it, you could, in a trice, destroy your career. Nodes on the vocal chords of singers; arthritis in the hands of pianists; these can be desperate matters, but they do not happen in an instant of time, as a result of doing your best.

Sport is a cruel matter. We would not watch if it were not, for, without adversity, there is no triumph. We should spare a thought, at a time of year when everything gets buried beneath a candy-coating, for those who pay the price for our pleasures, for our triumphs. Here is Anthony Powell on literary aspiration: the words hold good for aspirations of the sporting kind: "*So far as I was concerned, the juggernaut of critical opinion must be allowed to take its irrefragable course. If too fervent worshippers … were crushed to powder beneath the pitiless wheels of its car, nothing could be done. Only their adoration of the idol made them so vulnerable.*"

All the same, it is a poor person whose heart does not go out to the victims of the rolling wheels of the juggernaut of sport. Alas, poor Graeme, poor John.

Tomba forgets problems

WITH an obvious sense of relief yesterday, of returning to the environment that he knows best and in which he is best, Alberto Tomba won a World Cup slalom skiing race. Problems off-piste were forgotten as Tomba, Italy's favourite sportsman, accepted the garlands and plaudits on home territory at Madonna di Campiglio.

With Jure Kosir falling when leading on his second run, Tomba, the overall World Cup champion, who had been third after the first series, raced down the piste on the second to clock a combined time of 1min 34.62sec for his first victory of the season and the thirtieth in slalom of his career.

Away from skiing, Tomba is facing possible expulsion from the Italian *carabinieri* after a photographer, who had sold nude photographs of him to a magazine, alleged that the Italian had thrown a heavy glass trophy at him after a World Cup race on Sunday. The *carabinieri* said in a statement yesterday that it was holding an inquiry into the incident that would "examine the disciplinary position" of Tomba, who holds the rank of sergeant.

Tomba, however, was happy to put such troubles to one side. Yesterday was, after all, also his 29th *birthday*.

Bible for athletes still running after 50 years

David Powell salutes another milestone in the history of a sport's most authoritative magazine

David Coleman wrote: "Thanks for years of pleasure, education and essential information." Chris Brasher insisted: "The historian of our sport." "An outstanding service," Andy Norman added. "So authoritative that it is obligatory reading" — Sir Arthur Gold.

The letters congratulating *Athletics Weekly* on its fortieth anniversary were as sincere as the publication itself. The International Amateur Athletic Federation expressed its "gratitude for sterling work" and Sebastian Coe spoke for athletes everywhere: "I remember [at Loughborough Colleges] the biggest queue in the library was always for 'AW'. It was the bible."

Today, *Athletics Weekly* is 50 years old. Though blistered in recent years, it is still on its feet, one of only two weekly athletics publications worldwide. It may never again be the reverential organ, but it is more worthy now than at any time since it underwent an horrific transformation.

Readers were cast out of their safe world of statistics, interviews and concise reporting into a jungle of trivia, sensationalism and screaming headlines. When Nigel Walsh, the present editor, wrote in for a job, he did so because he was "appalled at the number of mistakes".

Mind you, *Athletics Weekly*'s very first act was a deliberate statistical mistake. When P. W. "Jimmy" Green, the magazine's founder, produced the first issue, he labelled it Vol II No 1. What happened to Vol I he will not say, save to confirm that it never existed.

On leaving the RAF, after the Second World War, Green used his £150 resettlement grant to start the magazine. Now 86, Green recalled: "Several leading officials said, 'Don't waste your money, don't be so damned silly, it will never succeed', but I was pigheaded."

Green set up office at home in Rainham, Kent, sold 2,000 copies at sixpence each with his first attempt, and gained respect immediately with the quality of his contributors. Jack Crump, the national team manager, compiled subjective event ranking lists, a controversial element that drew much attention.

Monthly to begin with, but weekly from 1950, *Athletics Weekly*'s circulation grew to a peak of 30,000 in the mid-Eighties. To 1987, it had only three editors: Green (1945-68), Mel Watman (1968-84) and Barry Trowbridge (1984-87). Trowbridge departed when Emap took over in 1987 and sent it downmarket. Watman finally left the staff soon after, along with much of the loyal readership. Since then, several editors have come and gone and circulation has fallen, though it saw off the four-year challenge of *Athletics Today*, a rival weekly that closed in 1993.

Watman was adamant that all areas of the sport should be covered. Race walking was a case in point. "Probably 95 per cent of readers did not want walking cluttering up the pages, but I was determined that the minority interest should be represented," he said.

"In the earlier years there was also an anti-women's bias among our readers. For many years, we had only a page for them, called 'With The Ladies'." Under Watman, *Athletics Weekly* spoke out vehemently against drugs and shamateurism.

"We were campaigning for open athletics, meaning athletes could be paid and there would be professional administration. We were always calling for one governing body, which eventually came about. We were a quiet magazine but people had an affection for us. I think people appreciated that we had the best interests of athletics at heart."

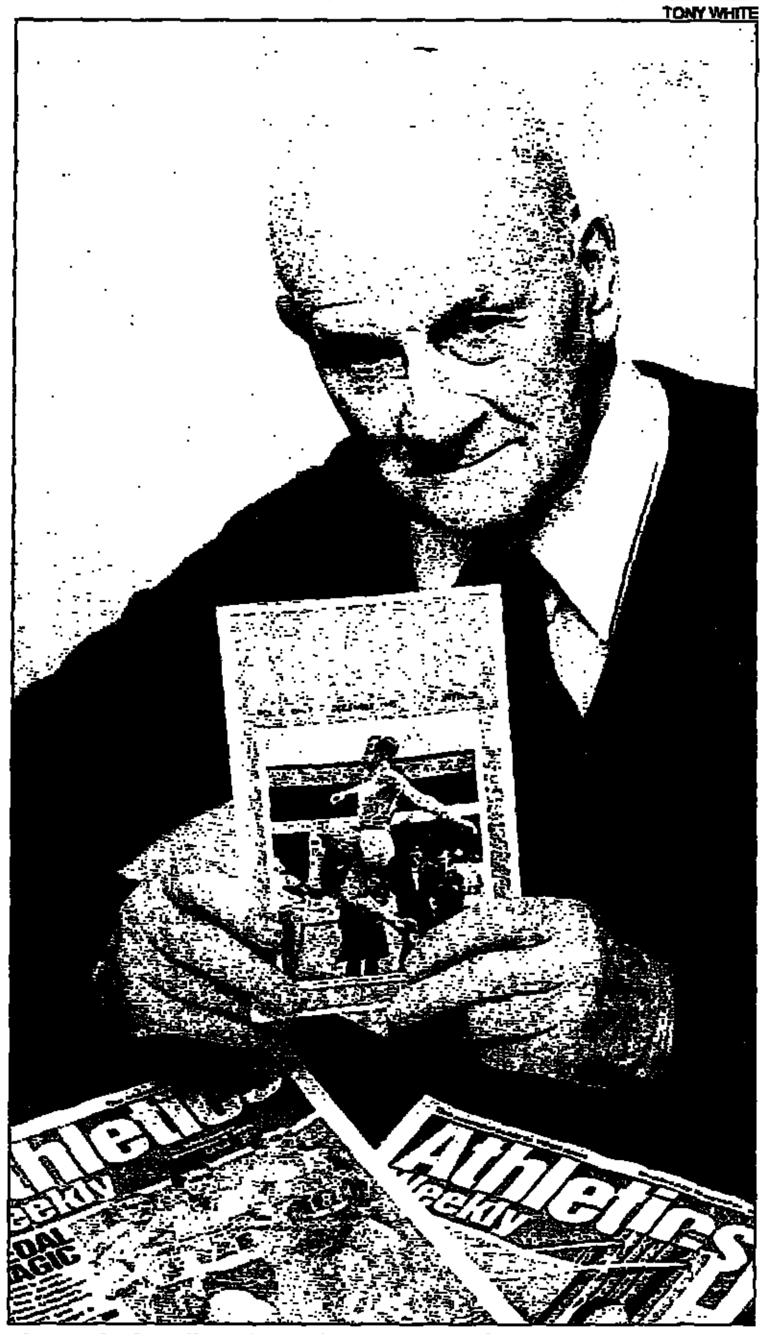
The top athletes would use it to vent their views. Gordon Pirie had a letter published in 1967 complaining about British athletics wasting money on high-altitude training.

Headlines such as "Watch Out For Takeyuki Nakayama" characterised *Athletics Weekly*'s confidence in its own stride-length. There was wit too. "Two Legs In Search Of Eight Feet," was its headline on the ambitions of Geoff Parsons in the high jump.

Athletics Weekly has never missed an issue and today it is claiming a personal best, 116 pages. The London Marathon preview issue of 1983 was 120 pages, but A5 in size, not today's A4. Still, though, we miss the old *Athletics Weekly*, its neat format and epic features: ten pages on an East German sprinter [part one]; a week later part two, another nine pages.

That was when *Athletics Weekly* was 40, the age when men in the sport become veterans. Let us hope that, as the magazine joins the over-50s, it can be wise again.

TONY WHITE



Green, the founding editor, displays a copy of the first edition of "AW"

IN BRIEF

Tarango makes belated apology

JEFF TARANGO yesterday apologised for the outburst at the Wimbledon tennis championships that led to a fine of almost £30,000 and a ban from the tournament next year. The American stormed off court during a singles match against Alexander Mronz. Later, in an emotional news conference, he questioned the impartiality of Bruno Rebeuh, the umpire.

In August, Tarango was suspended from the 1996 championship and one other grand slam tournament. On appeal, Tarango's fine was reduced to £18,000, and the additional one-tournament ban was suspended for three years.

He said: "I unequivocally apologise to Mr Bruno Rebeuh for any embarrassment or harm that this incident may have caused him and his family. I do not intend to make such a mistake ever again."

Hilton banned

Rugby league: Tony Hilton, the Rochdale Hornets forward, was yesterday suspended for three months by the Rugby Football League board of directors after he tested positive for the banned substance, ephedrine. Hilton, 24, was tested after Rochdale's match at Featherstone on November 1.

Parker power

Rackets: James Parker, the 15-year-old son of Paul Parker, the former Sussex, Durham and England cricketer, won the junior colts event of the public schools championship at the Queen's Club by crushing Edward Cazalet, of Eton, 15-5, 15-0.

No pay

Snooker: A proposal to pay board members of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association did not receive the two-thirds majority it required at the association's annual meeting in Bristol yesterday.

Wild rice

American football: Jerry Rice received 14 passes for a team-record 289 yards and three touchdowns as the San Francisco 49ers beat the Minnesota Vikings 37-30 on Monday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Trump promotions come in various guises. This one was reported to me by Ronnie Rubin at the Vanderbilt (one of the four leading events in the United States).

Dealer East	Love all	IMPs
	♠A87 ♥1085 ♦A84 ♣KJ96	
♠Q96 ♥2 ♦QJ10975 ♣875		♠54 ♥AKQ763 ♦63 ♣1032
	♠KJ1032 ♥J94 ♦K2 ♣AQ4	

Contract: Four Spades by South **Lead: Two of Hearts**

East opened a weak Two Hearts and North-South finished in Four Spades. West led a heart that East won with the queen. East continued with the king of hearts. How should West plan his defence?

West knows that three rounds of hearts are going to stand up (East would not open Two Hearts with a seven-card suit). Do you now see what he wants his partner to do?

Consider what will happen if West cashes a third heart and continues with a fourth round. If the declarer ruffs low, West can ruff with the nine of spades, to force dummy's ace and so promote West's queen; and, if South ruffs high, West discards and now makes a trump trick.

Now look at the problem from East's point of view. How can he tell that it is correct to play a fourth round of hearts? What if South's spades are solid — if South has five spades to the K Q J 10 and Q x of diamonds, playing a fourth heart would enable South to throw his diamond loser while ruffing in dummy.

The way that West can get the message over is to discard the queen of diamonds on the second heart, and another diamond on the third heart. Now, East can see that, if the declarer has five solid spades, he must be home — he is marked with five tricks in spades, two in diamonds and three in clubs (taking the club finesse if necessary).

So, East will realise that the only chance is the trump promotion and so will continue with a fourth round of hearts.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

Names

EBENEZER
a. Strong fortress
b. Black nose
c. Stone of help

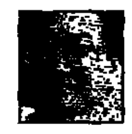
JEMIMA
a. A dove
b. A duck
c. Good at weaving

CORNELIUS
a. Strong as an elephant
b. Of horn
c. With wide acres

WENDY
a. Stock or stem
b. Friendly
c. Fleet as the wind

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS



By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Speed chess

A new world championship event for junior players has been set up in Disneyland, Paris. This is a speed chess event for players of 14 years or younger. The winners of the inaugural competitions were:

Girls under-12: Viktorija Cmilyte (Lithuania).

Boys under-12: Etienne Bacrot (France).

Girls under-14: Chau Thi Ngo Giao (Vietnam).

Boys under-14: Levon Aronian (Armenia).

Blindfold chess

Bacrot went on to further distinguish himself by defeating Anatoly Karpov, the Fide world champion, where the latter was playing blindfold.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Etienne Bacrot

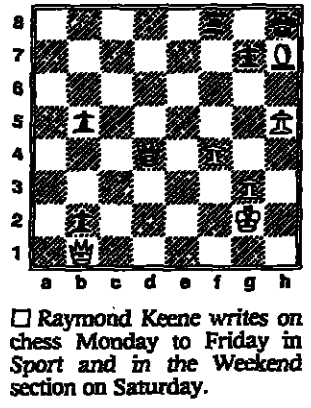
Blindfold simultaneous
Disneyland, Paris
December 1995

English Opening

1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	Nf3	Nc6
4	g3	d5
5	cxd5	Nxd5
6	Bg2	Nb6
7	0-0	Be7
8	a3	0-0
9	b4	Re8
10	d3	Bf8
11	Be3	a5
12	bxa5	Rxa5
13	Bxb6	cxb6
14	a4	Bb4
15	Nb5	Na7
16	Qb3	Bc5
17	Nxa7	Rxa7
18	e3	Bg4
19	h3	Bxf3
20	Bxf3	Qd7
21	Kg2	Rea8
22	Bd5	b5
23	Rfc1	Bd6
24	a5	Rxa5
25	Rxa5	Rxa5
26	Qc3	Ra8
27	d4	Ba3
28	e4	Bxc1
29	Qxc1	exd4
30	Qc5	d3
31	Qc3	Kh8
32	Qxd3	f5
33	Qf3	Rd8
34	h4	b4
35	h5	b5
36	Qb3	Qd6
37	Qb2	fxe4
38	Bxe4	Qd4
39	Qb1	Rf8
40	f4	b3
41	Bxh7	b2

White resigns

Diagram of final position

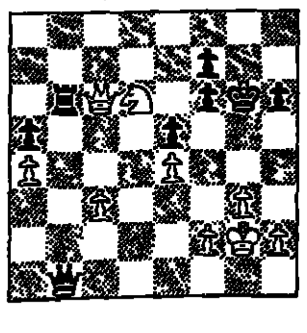


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Psakhis — Schussler, Lugano 1988. The black king is exposed, but it is not easy to see a way for White to get at it. Can you see how he solved this problem?



Solution on page 38

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): San Francisco 37 Minnesota 30.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Chicago 123 Boston 114; Utah 110 New Jersey 103; Sacramento 92 Vancouver 85.

BOXING

LONDON: British featherweight championship: Jonjo Irwin (Doncaster) bt Elvis Parsley (Bloxwich) rsc 8th rnd.
TOKYO: World Boxing Association middleweight championship (12 rnds). Shinji Takehara (Japan) bt Jorge Castro (Arg, holder) pts.

CRICKET

One-day international

Australia v West Indies

MELBOURNE (Australia won toss): Australia beat West Indies by 24 runs

AUSTRALIA

M J Slater c Richardson b Ambrose 2
*M A Taylor c Hooper b Simmons 63
M E Waugh run out 15
R T Ponting c Browne b Walsh 6
S G Law st Browne b Hooper 74
M G Bevan not out 44
S Lee c Chanderpaul b Ambrose 3
†I A Healy not out 34
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 2) 8
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs) 249

S K Warne, C J McDermott and M S Kasprowicz did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-39, 3-48, 4-184, 5-172, 6-181.

BOWLING: Ambrose 10-1-36-2; Walsh 9-0-32-1; Cummins 6-0-40-0; Harper 10-1-46-0; Hooper 9-0-60-1; Simmons 6-0-31-1.

WEST INDIES

S C Williams lbw b Lee 44
S L Campbell c Ponting b Kasprowicz ... 2
S Chanderpaul c and b Bevan 73
P V Simmons c McDermott b Waugh .. 24
C L Hooper c Healy b Bevan 10
*R B Richardson c Law b McDermott .. 15
R A Harper st Healy b Warne 15
A C Cummins not out 28
†C O Browne run out 2
C E L Ambrose b McDermott 1
C A Walsh c Healy b Warne 1
Extras (lb 9, w 1, nb 2) 12
Total (49.1 overs) 225

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-84, 3-125, 4-147, 5-166, 6-177, 7-209, 8-213, 9-224.

BOWLING: McDermott 10-0-40-2; Kasprowicz 6-0-32-1; Lee 10-1-40-1; Warne 9.1-1-41-2; Waugh 6-0-32-1; Bevan 8-0-31-2.

Man of the match: M G Bevan.

CASTLE CUP (final day of four): Cape Town: Free State 247 and 252; Western Province 257 and 162-4. Match drawn. Paarl: Boland 209 and 185, Border 177 and 221-8 (P Botha 93, P Strydom 69; R Telemachus 5-72). Border won by 2 wkts.

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Natal	5	4	1	0	14	13	67
W Province	5	3	1	1	15	18	63
Transvaal	5	3	2	0	16	16	62
Free State	5	2	0	3	17	20	57
Border	5	2	3	0	5	13	38
N Transvaal	5	1	3	1	10	12	32
E Province	5	0	2	3	11	13	24
Boland	5	0	3	2	8	13	21

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: International championships: Snowman Six Bar Stakes: 1, Gondoso (H Simon, Austria); equal 2, Blue Bayu (P Charles, Ire), Everest Randi (J Whitaker, GB), Elpasja (W-J van der Schans, Holl). Christmas Eve Fault and Out Stakes: 1, Everest My Messieur (M Whitaker, GB) 20pts, 46.61sec; 2, Sprehe It's Me (L Beerbaum, Ger) 20, 47.74sec; 3, Mighty Blue (R Smith GB) 20, 48.21. Grand Prix: 1, Leroy Brown (W-J van der Schans, Holl) 0flts, 35.89sec; 2, Tees Hanauer (R Smith, GB) 0, 37.81; 3, Everest Welham (J Whitaker, GB) 4, 33.51; 4, Everest Showtime (N Skelton, GB) 4, 33.62.

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Manchester City 1 Nottingham Forest 1.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: First round replay: Arbroath 0 Stenhousemuir 1.

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis 3 Chesham 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 2 Southampton 1; Oxford United 1 Bristol Rovers 3; Wimbledon 1 Crystal Palace 1. Postponed: Bristol City v Queens Park Rangers. League Cup: Cardiff City 10 Cheltenham 2.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 4 Birmingham City 2, Wolverhampton Wanderers 0 Sheffield United 1. Second division: Blackpool 0 Preston 0; Middlesbrough 4 Mansfield Town 1. Postponed: Barnsley v Port Vale. Third division: Rochdale 5 Doncaster Rovers 0.

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Reading 8 Woking 0, Welling United 1 Wokingham Town 0, Wycombe Wanderers 5 Sutton United 0. Postponed: Sutton United v Leyton Orient.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Portsmouth RN 1 Bournemouth 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Inner London 4 Middlesex 2. St Clement Danes Under-19 Trophy: Inner London B 2 Middlesex B 3.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round replay: Walsall 0 Ipswich Town 1. Third round: Millwall 5 Birmingham City 2.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Championship final, second leg: Santos 1 Botafogo 1 (Botafogo won 3-2 on agg).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal 3 Hartford 2; New York Rangers 3 Washington 0, Vancouver 4 Colorado 2; Edmonton 3 Ottawa 1.
MOSCOW: Izvestia Cup: Sweden 3 Canada 0.

NETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Wyvern 51 Hirondelles 62, Harborne 44 Kelmscott 34, Linden 51 Aquila 29, Hertford Hornets 61 New Cambell 52.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools championship: Seniors: Foster Cup: First round: N Bailey (Eton) bt R MacAndrew (Harrow) 15-5, 15-4, 15-9; F Roumani (Marlborough) bt M Hardinges (Malvern) 15-8, 15-4, 15-8. R Palmer (Haileybury) bt B Dean (Radley) 5-15, 15-8, 15-12, 15-8, P Wigan (Eton) bt A Clowes (Wellington) 15-3, 12-15, 15-10, 15-10: G Smith-Bingham (Eton) bt D Hill (Malvern) 15-7, 15-7, 15-3; D Palmer-Tomkinson (Eton) bt A Falconer (Malvern) 11-15, 15-11, 15-9, 15-12. Quarter-final: Bailey bt Roumani 15-7, 17-14, 15-3. Colts: Incledon-Webber Cup: Semi-finals: A Titchener-Barrett (Harrow) bt M Farmiloe (Haileybury) 15-2, 15-11, 13-16, 15-3. D Cherry (Tonbridge) bt O Broom (Radley) 5-15, 15-4, 15-8, 13-16, 15-12. Junior Colts: Jim Dear Cup: Final: J Parker (Tonbridge) bt E Cazalet (Eton) 15-5, 15-0

TABLE TENNIS

TARNOBRZEG, Poland: European Women's Club Cup of Champions: Quarter-final: Cierch-Siarka (Pol) 0 BFL Grove (Eng) 4. Scores (BfL Grove names first): Singles: A Broe bt Li Yue Ling 21-14, 17-21, 21-17; A Holt bt Liang Na 21-18, 21-12, L Lomas bt A Glersage 21-14, 21-15. Doubles: Lomas and Holt bt Li and A Januszyk 21-17, 6-21, 21-14

SKIING

MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO, Italy: World Cup: Men: Slalom: 1, A Tomba (It) (43.03sec, 51.59sec) 1min 34.62sec; 2, Y Dimer (Fr) (43.14, 53.03) 1:36.17; 3, K K Ladsaetter (It) (43.41, 53.15) 1:36.56; 4, S Amiez (Fr) (43.78, 52.88) 1:36.66; 5, M Reiter (Austria) (43.60, 53.07) 1:36.67; 6, F Tescari (It) (43.55, 53.13) 1:36.68. World Cup positions: Slalom: 1, Amiez 180pts, 2, Tomba 160; 3, F de Crignis (It) 111; equal 4, M Tritscher (Austria), A Miklavc (Slovenia) and F C Jagge (Nor) 100. Overall: 1, L Kjus (Nor) 640; 2, M Von Gruenigen (Switz) 400, 3, H Knaus (Austria) 359, 4, L Alphand (Fr) 296; 5, F Nyberg (Swe) 281, 6, Tomba 256.

SQUASH

SUPER LEAGUE: Jim Hall Sports Northern 1 Cannons Club 2 (Northern names first: P Johnson lost to S Parke 15-13, 10-15, 2-15, 7-15; A Gough lost to P Nichol 14-15, 7-15, 9-15, N Taylor bt J Rennie 15-11, 13-15, 15-8, 15-13). Ogmore Valley Dragons 3 Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 0 (Dragons names first, M Cairns bt S Meads 15-12, 15-3, 13-15, 15-1, P Gregory bt A Kirkland 15-11, 15-7, 15-11, C van der Alh bt T Garner 15-12, 15-7, 14-15, 15-8)

	P	W	L	Pts
Cannons	4	4	0	9
Dragons	5	3	2	8
ICL	3	3	0	7
Northern	5	1	4	7
Lingfield	5	0	5	2

TENNIS

CORBY: LTA Reebok tour: Finals: Men: C Wilkinson (Hampshire) bt P Hand (Berkshire) 6-2, 6-2. Women: N Egorova (Russ) bt J Lutrova (Russ) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY: LTA winter series championship: Finals: Men: D Gaterell (Hants) bt A Sharp (Surrey) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Women: N Benneyworth (Sussex) bt A Napier (Surrey) 6-4, 6-0.

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Women's Tennis Association Christmas tournament: First round: J Lutrova (Russ) bt M Barrett (Wiltshire) 6-3, 6-1. S Turner (Sussex) bt J White (Northants) 6-3, 6-3: K Scot (Dorset) bt A Barrett (Wiltshire) 6-2, 6-1; J Dawson (Sussex) bt H Richardson (Northants) 6-4, 6-0; E Bond (Gloucestershire) bt L Ogan (Warwickshire) 6-3, 6-1. F Hearn (Middlesex) bt N Adams (Surrey) 6-1, 6-2; I Wyatt (Oxon) bt C Reid (Surrey) 6-2, 7-6. R Spencer (Dorset) bt Z Twidle (Kent) 6-4, 6-1. A Simpkin (Leicestershire) bt C Wallace (Devon) 6-3, 6-2; M Mair (Scot) bt S Durham (Sussex) 6-0, 6-1; H Crook (Essex) bt L Cornforth (Sussex) 6-0, 6-4; S Lydon (Somerset) bt A Purnell (Warwickshire) 6-2, 6-1, L Fletcher (Durham and Cleveland) bt F Barrett (Wiltshire) 6-2, 6-2; C Taylor (Oxon) bt C Tee (Surrey) 6-2, 6-1; T Callow (Middlesex) bt K Weedon (Wiltshire) 6-0, 6-1; C Aldridge (Hants) bt L Moren (Kent) 6-3, 6-4.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Coca-Cola Cup
Fourth round replays
Birmingham v Middlesbrough (7.45) ...
Bolton v Norwich (7.45) ......

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Southend v Port Vale (7.45) ......

Spalding Cup
Second round
Gateshead v Halifax (7.45) ......

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Poole v Trowbridge.

ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Edgware v Dorking. Carlton Cup: Second round: Epsom and Ewell v Lewes.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Portsmouth (2.0); Ipswich v Swindon (at Bury St Edmunds FC); Luton v Millwall (2.0), Norwich v Chelsea; Tottenham v Charlton (at St Albans FC). Second division: Birmingham v Bournemouth (7.0); Cardiff v Torquay (2.0); Newport AFC v Swansea (7.45).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.0): First division: Blackburn v Notts County (at Preston North End); Bolton v Tranmere, Manchester Utd v Derby (at Bury FC), Nottingham Forest v West Bromwich; Oldham v Newcastle (at Stalybridge FC). Second division: Aston Villa v Grimsby; Hull v Coventry; Leicester v Burnley; Sunderland v York. Postponed: Huddersfield v Manchester City.

LEAGUE OF WALES CUP: Group one: First round: Porthmadog v Cemaes Bay (7.45). Group five: Ebbw Vale v Ton Pentre.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Crediton.

CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: Semi-final: Glenavon v Portadown (at Mourneview Park).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: East Cowes v Aerostructures.

SCHOOLS MATCH: FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Essex v Hertfordshire (at Debden, 1.30).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

CIS county championship
South
Middlesex v Kent
(at Imber Court, 7.45) ......

Swalec Cup
Fourth round
Rhymney v Nelson (7.0) ......

SRU under-21
inter-district championship
Edinburgh District v South of Scotland
(at Murrayfield, 6.0) ......
Nth and Mid Scotland v Scottish Exiles
(at Murrayfield) ......

HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Worcestershire and Herefordshire v Greater Birmingham (at Worcester).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30

Stones Championship
Castleford v St Helens ......
Sheffield v Halifax ......
Warrington v Bradford ......

Second division
Carlisle v Doncaster
(at Carlisle RU) ......

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: 7-Up Trophy: Semi-finals, second legs (7.30): Birmingham v London, Sheffield v Worthing.

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Simon Wilde on Test venues that suffer most from inclement weather

English cricket commanding a place in the sun

The past few wet weeks in South Africa may have been infuriating to cricketers and cricket-watchers alike, but they have at least succeeded in making the habit of staging the "summer game" in hopelessly inclement weather look less peculiarly English. That said, the historical evidence suggests that, pluvially speaking, the worst may now be over on England's tour.

Jokes about cricket and the English weather are as old as the hills, but they are fast becoming inappropriate. While recent experience suggests that it never rains but it pours in countries such as South Africa, India and Sri Lanka, England has become one of the most reliable places in the world to watch Test cricket.

It has been three years and 21 matches since an entire day's play was lost to rain in a Test match in England: in July 1992, the second day of the third Test match with Pakistan was lost at Old Trafford. On the other hand, in just the past three months overseas, Test matches between India and New Zealand in Madras and Cuttack have been ruined by heavy rain, as were England's visits to Verwoerdburg and Durban, where the third Test match went to a watery grave on Monday.

Historically, southern Africa remains the most reliable area in the world for uninterrupted Test cricket. Even with the loss of six days' play in the present Test series, 112 Test matches in South Africa have produced a total of only 11 blank days, or just 0.098 days lost per Test, a smaller ratio than any other Test-playing country.

Encouragingly, the venues for the two remaining Test matches on England's tour, in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, are among the driest in the world. Port Elizabeth, where the fourth Test match starts on Boxing Day, has never lost a day's play in 13 Test matches, and Cape Town has had just one washout in 27 Tests. The fifth Test begins there on January 2.

Zimbabwe has maintained the region's good record, having lost only one day to rain in ten matches since it was elevated to Test status in 1992.

Pakistan and Australia are the next best places to watch Test cricket. Sydney's record is poor and Australia's overall position owes much to Perth never having lost a day's play in 23 Tests and Adelaide having experienced only two in 53.

England's reputation for wetness was once well deserved. For generations, Manchester could almost guarantee to produce rain on the occasion of the Old Trafford Test, but, since 1980, first Leeds and then Lord's took over as the main water supplier at Tests in this country. Birmingham has by some margin the best record: only three washed-out days in 31 matches.

One of the reasons for England's improved record is the advances made in ground-covering equipment, such as the innovative "Brumbrella" at Edgbaston. With a large and busy professional circuit to support, many English county grounds have sophisticated machinery to cope with heavy rainfalls.

Other countries are not so well placed. Two years ago, Sri Lanka, who have fewer resources and are often expected to stage matches to fit around the domestic seasons of more senior nations, put on a Test match in Kandy during the rainy season, with the predictable result that only 12 overs were possible in five days. Such a fiasco has helped make Sri Lanka, with nine days lost in 27 Tests, the wettest country for Test cricket, followed by New Zealand and England.

West Indian Test grounds are curiously divided. Georgetown and Kingston are among the worst-hit venues, Bridgetown and Port of Spain among the best. Indeed, in weather terms, Barbados is the best place in the world to watch Test cricket, having not lost a day to rain in 31 matches.

Perhaps the least wise place to watch Test cricket is Dunedin, New Zealand, the most southerly of all the grounds to have staged Test cricket. It has lost eight days in nine matches, including all five when Pakistan paid a visit in 1989.

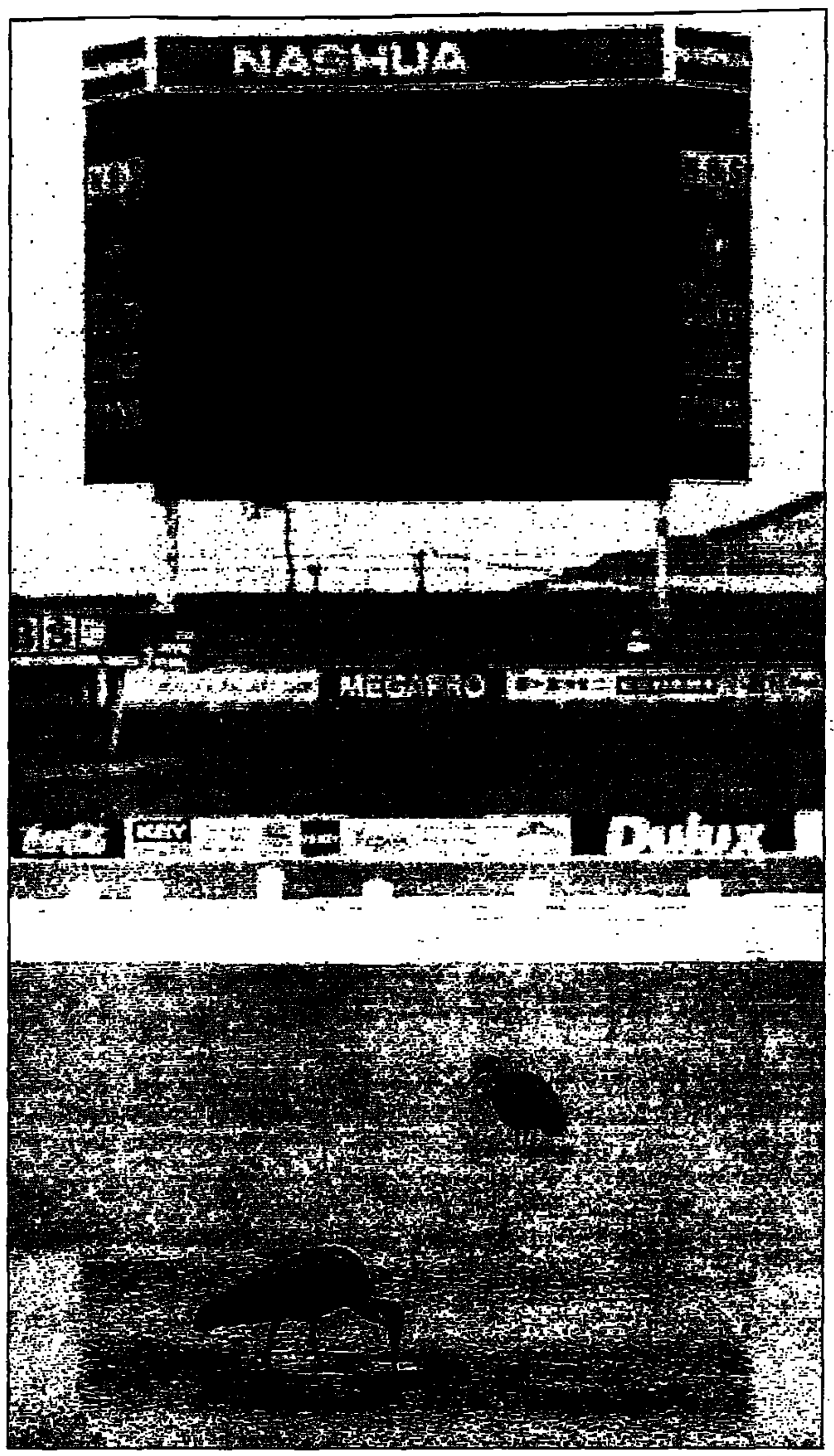
Leading article, page 17

The wettest Test venues

	City	Days lost	Tests	Days lost per Test
1	Georgetown	12	23	0.521
2	Manchester	28	62	0.451
3	Christchurch	11	34	0.323
4	Durban	8	27	0.296
5	Wellington	7	30	0.233
6	Madras	7	31	0.225
7	Sydney	18	82	0.219
8	Delhi	5	23	0.217
9	Leeds	12	57	0.210
10	Nottingham	9	43	0.209

The driest

	City	Days lost	Tests	Days lost per Test
1	Bridgetown	0	31	—
2	Perth	0	23	—
3	Pt Elizabeth	0	13	—
4	Port of Spain	1	47	0.021
5	Bombay	1	33	0.030
6	Karachi	1	32	0.031
7	Cape Town	1	27	0.037
8	Adelaide	2	53	0.037
9	Johannesburg	2	44	0.045
10	Colombo	1	17	0.058
	Faisalabad	1	17	0.058



Despite the heavy rain that plagued Durban during England's stay, Test cricket in South Africa has been less disrupted by the elements than in most other countries

Montgomerie wins award

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

COLIN MONTGOMERIE has been named the Johnnie Walker golfer of the year for 1995. Montgomerie, 32, had such a remarkable year, that was capped when he made sure of winning the order of merit for the third time in a row, that only one golfer mounted a serious challenge to the big Scot for this end-of-year honour.

That golfer was Sam Torrance, who played the golf of his life in 1995, giving new hope to the over-40s. Torrance, 42, was married at the beginning of the year and then won three of the 26 events in which he competed on the European Tour. Wherever you looked in Europe last season, either Montgomerie or Torrance was at the head of the field.

Montgomerie, who was runner-up in the US PGA championship, had a stroke average of 69.70 for the 20 events in Europe in which he played, fractionally better than Torrance's 70.28 from 26 events. Montgomerie had 302 birdies in his 73 rounds and was 146 under par, while Torrance was 132 under par.

A significant tribute paid to Montgomerie is all the more meaningful because it was made by Johnny Miller, the American golfer. "He is as good a ball-striker as Greg Norman, which is saying a lot," Miller said. "It is almost uncanny how well Colin hits the ball with a big, loose Payne Stewart-type swing and that wrist action. I don't think Colin has a clue how he does it — but that doesn't matter. He does it."

Montgomerie needs to win a major championship to confirm his place among the very best; and he still has to work on his behaviour. An outburst in the recent world championship in Jamaica was inexcusable. It was, though, about his only mistake in 1995.

Montgomerie: top honour

VH-1 is available on cable and satellite.

Dear Diary,

Woke up 'sleep skateboarding'. Luckily I had my portable T.V. with me so I didn't miss Mariah Carey and her gorgeous curly hair. Anyway, her lovely hit pop record 'Without You' steamed out of the mini speakers and I almost went straight into the back of a lamp-post. Almost. It reminded me of school. But I can't think why.

VH-1

Where music means something.

West Indies slide to third defeat

AUSTRALIA dealt a further blow to West Indies' morale yesterday by inflicting their third successive defeat in the World Series limited-overs competition at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Australia won by 24 runs despite a vastly improved performance by West Indies. In reply to Australia's 249 for six from their 50 overs, West Indies subsided to 225 all out in 49.1 overs.

John Emburey, 43, will undertake twelfth-man duties when England A play Pakistan A in the third and final one-day international at the new Shekhupura Stadium today.

With the tour party down to 11 fit players, Emburey, the manager, is forced to don his whites once again as England A look to complete a 3-0 whitewash in the one-day matches.

England A are without the services of four players from their original party of 15. Jason Gallian has been drafted into the full England squad in South Africa, Jason Pooley has a damaged elbow and Ian Salisbury and Shaun Udal have returned home for personal reasons.

Scoreboard, page 37

Van der Schans adds fine finishing touch

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Olympia show jumping championships, that ended on Monday night with Wout-Jan van der Schans's surprise win on Leroy Brown in the Grand Prix, were the most successful in the 23-year history of the show. A record audience of 65,000 attended and the quality of jumping was higher than in any previous year.

Simon Brooks-Ward, the equestrian director and son of Raymond Brooks-Ward, the show's founder, was delighted at the outcome. "It's difficult to know where to go from here," he said. "It's just a great shame for the sport that the BBC decided not to televise the show in such a spectacular year."

The presence of the world's 14 top-ranked riders, led by Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the Olympic champion, had promised a high standard, but few could have predicted the consistency of the jumping that unfolded nightly. Beerbaum's 0.01 second victory over Nick Skelton, of Great Britain, on Dollar Girl, in the Volvo World Cup qualifier was one of the week's highlights.

Ironically, in the P&O European Ferries Grand Prix on Monday, the richest event of the week, the leading riders had to concede victory to van der Schans, the former Dutch three-day-eventer who is ranked No 76 in the world. Van der Schans, whose previous best wins were in the Helsinki World Cup qualifiers of 1986 and 1989, was drawn first in the nine-horse jump-off. Leroy Brown, his powerful Oldenburg gelding, jumped faultlessly round, but his time of 35.89sec looked vulnerable.

Nick Skelton, on Everest Showtime, was up on the Dutchman's time, but, risking all, incurred four faults at the penultimate fence. John Whitaker, on Everest Welham, and Franke Sloothaak, the world champion, on San Patrignano Weihaiwej, were both comfortably inside van der Schans's time, but clipped the last fence.

It was to prove an expensive fence for Skelton and Sloothaak. Apart from the £16,000 first prize at stake, the riders were the only contenders left in the Champagne Challenge, in which Taittinger offered to give the weight of the rider and his horse in champagne if they won the Grand Prix and had also finished in the top five of the World Cup qualifier. Thirty cases had been set aside.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *37*

EBENEZER

(c) Hebrew for "stone of help", the name of a stone raised by Samuel to commemorate the defeat of the Philistines, *I Samuel* vii. It was adopted as a christian name by 17th-century Puritans.

JEMIMA

(a) The Hebrew for a dove. Jemima was one of the three daughters of Job, the others being *Keziah* and *Kerenhappuch*. All three were used, but not often, in the 17th century by Puritans.

CORNELIUS

(b) The name of a famous Roman gens, possibly derived from *cornu*, a horn. It was the name of the devout centurion converted by Peter at *Acts* x, and later of a third-century martyred pope whose relics were taken to Compiègne and later to Rosnay in Flanders, whence the name became common in the Low Countries.

WENDY

(b) First used by J. M. Barrie in his play *Peter Pan* (1904), and frequently used since then as a christian name. The origin of the name was hypocoristic (a pet-name) for Barrie himself, evolved by W. E. Henley's little daughter Margaret. "Friendly" became "Friendly-wendy", and eventually "Wendy".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1, Qe8! Rxd6 (or f7 caves in with disastrous consequences); 2, Qg8+ Kh5; 3, Qxf7+ Kg5; 4, h4+ Kg4; 5, f3 checkmate.

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	30	100	good	varied	fair	fine	1	16/12
(Wonderful skiing on empty pistes; 13 of 21 lifts open)								
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	5	30	good	varied	closed	fog	-4	18/12
(Good skiing generally; snow machines topping up)								
St Anton	15	120	good	powder	fair	fine	-4	18/12
(Glorious December skiing with fresh powder)								
Schladming	40	60	good	varied	good	cloud	2	18/12
(Good skiing on empty pistes; 50 per cent of lifts open)								
Söll	20	50	good	varied	closed	cloud	0	18/12
(Conditions good overall with some powder available)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	40	100	good	varied	fair	fine	-6	17/12
(Good uncrowded skiing; odd rocky/grassy patch)								
Avoriaz	35	65	good	varied	fair	sun	-2	18/12
(Mostly good but some runs wearing; 11 of 49 lifts open)								
C Chevalier	30	100	good	varied	art	sun	-2	17/12
(Skiing good on empty pistes; more lifts now opening)								
Tignes	15	100	good	varied	art	fine	-1	18/12
(Skiing still restricted to Grande Motte; good though)								
Val d'Isère	15	100	fair	varied	art	sun	-2	18/12
(Open pistes OK but wearing slightly)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	30	250	good	varied	fair	sun	-7	18/12
(More lifts and runs open because of recent new snow)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	5	50	fair	poor	closed	sun	-3	18/12
(Dusting of new snow but skiing still limited)								
Mürren	20	80	good	powder	closed	fine	-3	18/12
(Improved conditions with recent new snow; more forecast)								
Verbier	20	100	good	varied	closed	fine	4	18/12
(Good skiing glacier, Attelas, Ruinettes and Lac des Vaux)								
Wengen	20	30	good	powder	fair	fine	0	18/12
(Snow conditions generally good; nine of 23 lifts open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Greatest show on earth?

Night Waves in Las Vegas. *Radio 3, 10.45pm.*

First a railroad junction, then a mobsters' playground, then a gamblers' Mecca. There are still 170,000 slot machines swallowing and regurgitating dollars in Las Vegas, but now it is a vast entertainment complex, too, where 5,000-room hotels stage extravaganzas the like of which the world — or at least reporter Tony Palmer — has never seen the like. A volcano erupts every 15 minutes; ships wage a battle in a lake; a smiling lion comes out of a man's stomach; a tropical rainforest is the way into a hotel. Palmer surrenders shamelessly to it all, and producer Anthony Denselow implicitly goes along with him. It makes even Disney's various wonderlands seem like sideshows in a travelling funfair.

Points of Departure. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

I can recommend this without having heard it. My confidence springs from many years of listening to the radio and television reporting of the veteran broadcaster Charles Wheeler. He has served the BBC with distinction for 48 years. His areas of operation have included Europe, India and — best of all, in my opinion — America. In 1991, he was awarded the James Cameron Prize. Tonight, Wheeler focuses on the time he covered the Hungarian uprising of 1956 for *Panorama*. Michael Peacock, then masterminding television's "window on the world", says that Wheeler "is a crusader for the betterment of the human condition".

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat; and at **1.15** The Net **3.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat; **6.15** The Net **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Lee and Herring **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** *Jimmy Young* **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jim Lloyd **8.00** Over the Water (2/4) **8.30** Mrs Ackroyd Explores Her Roots (2/6) **9.00** Macgregor's *Horizons* (6/7) **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The *Magazine*, with Diana Madill, incl at **10.35** Euronews; and at **11.00** News; Natural History **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Trevor Brooking's Football Night. Fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup **10.05** News Talk, with Mike Baker **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe **7.00** World News **7.15** *Middlemarch* **7.30** Discovery **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Drama: *The Wizard of Oz* **8.45** The High-C Hero **9.00** News in German **9.15** Andy Kershaw **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** *Middlemarch* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Composer of the Month **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.00** News in German **3.15** The *Greenfield* Collection **4.00** News **4.15** World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business **5.45** Sports **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Faith **7.30** *Multitrack* **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain **9.30** Ports of Call **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Pop Short **11.15** Sport **11.45** From Our Own Correspondent **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** The High-C Hero **12.45** Britain **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** New Ideas **1.35** Portrait of the Artist **1.45** Country Style **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Sport **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Assignment **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Gardening Forum (r) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Borodin (String Quartet No 2 in D); Strauss (Oboe Concerto); **7.05** *Purcell Portfolio*: a selection of songs; **7.21** Pachelbel (Partie a 4 in G); Balakirev (Islamey); Lilburn (Diversions for string orchestra); Beethoven (Variations on *Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen*); Dvořák (Czech Suite)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Ravel, arr Sadlo (Suite, Mother Goose); Anon (Blessed Be Thou, Queen of Heaven); Daquin (Adam was a Poor Man); Beethoven (Cello Sonata in A, Op 69)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Hummel (Trumpet Concerto in B flat); **10.20** A selection of carols; **10.30** *Artist of the Week*: Martin Roscoe, piano, plays Szymanowski (Mazurkas, Op 50, excerpts); **10.40** Janáček (Suite for strings); Hummel (Mass in E flat)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Zelenka (Trio Sonata No 6 in C *minor*); Antonio Lotti (La Vita Caduca); Zelenka (Sinfonia a 8 in A *minor*)

1.00pm Viola and Piano. Philip Dukes, viola, and Sophia Rahman, piano, perform Schumann (Adagio and Allegro in A flat); Henze (Sonata); Brahms (Sonata in E flat) (r)

2.00 Fairest Isle: Britten's Radio Music. In the final programme, Paul Hindmarsh introduces *Occasional Overture*, the music that opened the BBC's Third Programme on September 29, 1946, followed by the third of Britten's radio anthologies, *The World of the Spirit*

3.00 Midweek Choice. Including Rubinstein (Staccato Etude); Schumann (Konzertstück)

4.00 Choral Evensong, live from Guildford Cathedral

5.00 The Music Machine. Guests include the soprano Susan Bullock and Paul Gambaccini

5.15 In Tune, presented by Jeremy Nicholas

6.00 BBC Rush Hour Concert, live from the Wigmore Hall, London. The Sixteen under Harry Christophers, with Robin Jeffrey, lute, performs Anon (The Salutation Carol; Sweet was the Song; Quem pastores laudavere; The Old Year Now Passed Away; Greensleeves); Poulenc (Un soir de neige); Britten (Hymn to the Virgin; A Shepherd's Carol; The Holly and the Ivy); Poulenc (Quatre motets pour un temps de Noël); Bennett (Nowell, nowell tidings true, Salutation Carol); Britten (Sweet was the song); Ridout (What Child is This? Greensleeves)

7.00 Fairest Isle: A Holst Evening. Piers Burton-Page explores the life and music of Gustav Holst. Among the contributors are composer Colin Matthews, conductors Hilary Davan Wetton and Vernon Handley, Holst biographer Michael Short and Holst scholars Richard Greene, Raymond Head and Lowinger Maddison

10.45 Night Waves in Las Vegas. See Choice

11.30-12.30am Voices. Iain Burnside takes a different look at Christmas

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with *Times* columnist Libby Purves and guests

10.00-10.30 News; A Good Read (FM only). Susan Hill and guests Esther Selsden and Richard Cohen discuss three favourite paperbacks

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 Those Glorious Songs of Old (LW) (3/5)

10.30 Woman's Hour introduced by Jenni Murray: Serial: *Clean Break*, by Val McDermid (13/13)

11.30 Gardeners' Question Time from Bishop Walsh School in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands (r)

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Monsieur Pamplemousse Investigates. The final part of the detection comedy by Michael Bond **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Thriller Playhouse: Blonde for Danger, by Berkeley Grey. With Christopher Cazenove. Last in the series

2.45 Treasure Islands. The series ends with the second part of this year's *Treasure Islands* quiz

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini and guests choose the best of the videos available for Christmas and take a look at children's cinema from Iran

4.45 The Story of Doctor Dolittle. Alan Bennett reads Hugh Lofting's story (3/5)

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Kit and the Widow's Sound of Music. Music quiz. With Patricia Hodge, Robert King, Catherine Bott and Peter Polycarpou

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Points of Departure. See Choice

7.45 Out of Africa: The poet Benjamin Zephaniah explores the spirituality of people from the African diaspora

8.30 The Spirit of America: The McCarthy Years. The journalist Paul Robeson Jr talks about the link between racism in America and Senator Joe McCarthy's desire to expose communism

9.00 Costing the Earth

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between (6/10)

11.00 Trust. A satire about NHS Trusts (4/6)

11.30 Paris, London (FM only) (1/5) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow, by Peter Hoeg (3/15)

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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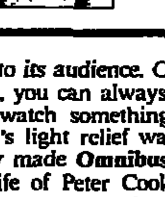
Arturo, Pete, Dud and the bare-faced lyres

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Tragedy is reaching operatic proportions in **EastEnders** (BBC1). In fact the whole thing could transfer to Covent Garden and bridge the class gap between cultures at a single stroke. At the market stall, young Marco caresses his apples and sings a lament for his persecuted father; indoors Polina delivers an aria of unbearable poignancy with her hands in her cardigan pockets. And in his friendless cell, an innocent old man with a look of confusion and defeat reads a Christmas card, with big tears rolling down. He howls in anguish and, as his voice rises, it is matched by a crescendo in the brass. The audience gasps, the curtain falls, applause. As everyone queues up, murmuring, for a smoked salmon sandwich, they agree that this *Tribulatori di Arturo* (trans: *Arthur Loses his Marbles*) is the finest thing on the stage in years.

While everyone in the real world is praying for Christmas not to happen (something will avert it, surely?), in Albert Square they are laying foundations for a real humdinger. The most difficult thing for a soap opera to handle is mental illness, yet two (or possibly three) stories in *EastEnders* now turn on nutcases. Frank Butcher (Mike Reid) is scheduled to reappear on Christmas Day, and has had the biggest insanity build-up since Ophelia described the condition of Hamlet with his wotsits all ungyved. "Frank is still very fragile," his psychiatric social worker told Pat last night, and then went on to talk about impulsive behaviour and false ideas. Oh lumme. Frank used to be the single reliable source of jokes, too.

Meanwhile the new mystery man on the Square (Felix, played by Harry Landis) was last night left weeping on the cellar floor of his barber shop, after a mix-up and scuffle brought his throat into contact with Grant Mitchell's fist. Whenever people say "You don't watch *EastEnders*, do you? It's all gloom and doom!" I hotly deny it. No, the *EastEnders* people are going for full-blown tragedy here. They have noticed that at the heart-breaking climax to Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, Willy Loman plants carrots and beet in his garden. So at visiting time Arthur (Arturo) suddenly bursts out "I've got to get the broad beans started!" And at the end of the episode, for the first time in *EastEnders* history, Polina's words of concern are heard above a silent image of Arturo, weeping for all he's worth.

Whether soap opera can deliver catharsis is an interesting point. Since it never actually stops, the catharsis of leaving the theatre and getting a couple of big drinks is not available to its audience. On the other hand, you can always stay tuned and watch something else. Last night's light relief was a competently made **Omnibus** (BBC1) on the life of Peter Cook. If people come up to you today saying in a funny voice "I've got a viper in this box", you will understand why.

The story that emerged was pretty familiar to anyone who read Peter Cook's informed obituaries — the wasted talent, the indulgence, the boredom, the need to get laughs constantly. But along the way, this *Omnibus* brought incidental surprises. In 1973, Cook appeared with Dudley Moore on Mavis Nicholson's afternoon chat-show, and they bickered publicly on a sofa about Peter's drink problem. Such a revealing conversation would never occur on a public sofa these days. Meanwhile his old buddies and cronies offered their considered, articulate views of his character. What a dreadful posthumous fate awaits all acquaintances of Jonathan Miller.

Peter Cook's only stated regret was that he once saved David Frost from drowning. Aside from this strange and awful lapse, he had much to be proud of. "What could be worse than achieving one's potential?" he yelled, gesticulating wildly at a Pebble Mill presenter in his last ever interview. He looked puffy and uncontrolled, and it was not the best way to remember him. Cook was an incredibly funny man, whose surreal ideas have influenced most comedians in this country. Even when calling late-night phone-ins, his timing was masterly. Dudley Moore was privileged to corpse into a sandwich at his side.

Pete and Dud once did a sketch about Heaven. Dressed in white raincoats, white flat caps and white mufflers, they looked at the lyres in their hands and appeared initially confused. "Is this heaven, Pete?" Pete looked around with increasing alarm. "Bloody Ell," he replied. Soon, however, they were saying how boring it was, facing eternity with just a small harp for company. "Here today, here tomorrow," averred Pete, flatly. "That's the saying in angelic circles."

The great achievement of last night's **Network First** (ITV) was that by spending a full hour on first-hand experience of angels, it brought all that transcendent boredom right into one's own life. *Entertaining Angels Unawares* could have asked why, suddenly, people are talking about angels. In America, apparently, 69 per cent of people believe in angels, and 32 per cent reckon they've met one. By extrapolation, this means that 81 million Americans vacuum swan feathers and twinkly dust off the carpet and think nothing of it.

But instead of treating this nonsense with the contempt it deserved, *Entertaining Angels Unawares* produced an endless succession of testimonies, conducive to the wrong sort of intimations of immortality. But I did have a thought. Perhaps an angel could appear to Arturo on Christmas Day! Taking his hand, he could lead Arturo towards a heavenly light! Good grief, you don't think I've guessed it, do you? Bloody Ell.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (50310)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (47690223)

9.10 Kilroy (s) (4522653)

10.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (9710579)

10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (5736710)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (36662)

12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (8310001)

12.05pm Pebble Mill: David Attenborough Special (r) (s) (5566933)

12.50 Regional News and weather (64412778)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (39778)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (96955827) **1.50 Hawkeye** (8361925) **2.35 Holiday** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5319136) **3.05 Timekeepers** (s) (6542556)

3.30 Ants in Your Pants (s) (9968136) **3.50 ChuckleVision** (s) (9948372) **4.10 Get Your Own Back** (Ceefax) (s) (1673662) **4.35 The Queen's Nose** (Ceefax) (s) (1944391)

5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3385198)

5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (8743827)

5.35 Neighbours *(r) (Ceefax) (s) (419846)* **NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.35** Inside Ulster

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (575)

6.30 Regional News magazines (827) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 6.30** Neighbours **6.55** On the Way to Bethlehem **6.58** Inside Ulster News

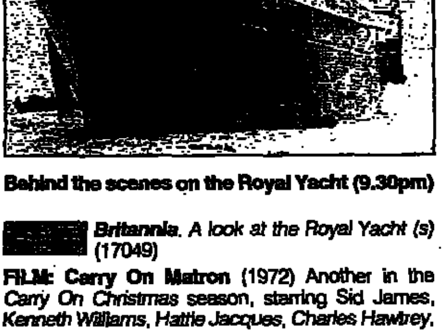
7.00 This Is Your Life (Ceefax) (s) (9020)

7.30 Here and Now. Presented by Sue Lawley (339)

8.00 Paul Daniels' Secrets. (Ceefax) (s) (740846)

8.50 Points of View (895223)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and *weather (7643)*



Behind the scenes on the Royal Yacht (9.30pm)

9.30 ***Britannia****. A look at the Royal Yacht (s)* (17049)

10.30 FILM: Carry On Matron (1972) Another in the *Carry On Christmas* season, starring Sid James, *Kenneth Williams, Hattie Jacques, Charles Hawtrey*, Barbara Windsor, and Terry Scott. Sid James stars as a small-time crook planning to steal contraceptive pills from a maternity hospital. He enlists the help of his son Cyril (Kenneth Cope) to infiltrate the hospital disguised as a nurse to get a plan of the place. Directed by Gerald Thomas (3579662) **WALES: 10.30** The Dragon Writes Back (258407) **10.40** Film: Carry On Matron (7496594) **12.05am** Film: The Curse of Frankenstein (2011402) **1.25-1.30** News headlines and weather (2678792)

11.55 FILM: The Curse of Frankenstein (1957) with *Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee*. Baron Victor Frankenstein is condemned to death for a series of murders and tries to convince his jailers that the crimes were committed by the creature he keeps in *his laboratory*. Directed by Terence Fisher (745223)

1.15am Weather (2689808) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 1.15am** On the Way to Bethlehem **1.18-1.20** Inside Ulster News

BBC2

7.00am Breakfast News (Signing) (9831136)

7.15 Lassie (r) (2533952) **7.40 Albert the 5th Musketeer** (r). (Ceefax) (7455594) **8.05 Take Two** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2823469)

8.35 The Record. Yesterday in Parliament (s) (7256575) **9.00 Harder than Everest**. An Australian/American expedition to climb Gasherbrum IV (r) (3033556) **9.50 Prue Leith's Tricks of the Trade** (r) (3814488) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (1183551)

10.25 FILM: Meet John Doe (1941, b/w) starring Gary Cooper and Barbara Stanwyck (52003020)

12.30pm Making Candles (r) (65556) **1.00 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams** (r) (s) (48671662) **1.15 Movie Magic** (r) (44248759) **1.40 Turning Points** (73909407) **1.45 Even More of Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave** (15227662) ***2.00 Understanding Cats*** *(60136310)* **2.15 Expedition Kingfisher**. Wildlife documentary (1587402)

3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather *(8873643)* ***3.05 Westminster*** *(2508136)* **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (9322759)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (440) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (952) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show**. *(Ceefax) (s) (5026488)* ***5.40 Miss-Takes*** *(r)* (400223)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. (Ceefax) (s) (304372)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*. (r) (999759)*

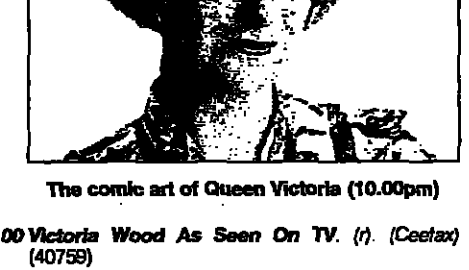
7.30 Top Gear Motorsport's Review of the Year from the Grosvenor House Hotel in London. (Ceefax) (s) (681)

8.00 Slice of Life. British food over the past 50 years. (Ceefax) (6310).

8.30 University Challenge chaired by Jeremy Paxman An all-women team representing the Open *University meet an all-male team from Newcastle* University. (Ceefax) (s) (2117)

9.00 Modern Times: Man Seeks Woman. (Ceefax) (s) (494681)

9.50 Court in the Act *(r). (Ceefax) (s) (267353)*



The comic art of Queen Victoria (10.00pm)

10.00 Victoria Wood As Seen On TV*. (r). (Ceefax)* (40759)

10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman. (Ceefax) (588020) **11.15 Weather** (297556)

11.20 ***I'm Not Like Everybody Else — The World of Ray Davies and the Kinks.*** (s) (842865)

12.20 FILM: Tracks (1977) starring Dennis Hopper. A Vietnam War veteran escorts his dead comrade across the country. Directed by Henry Jaglom. (Ceefax) (628792). Ends at **2.00am**

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CHOICE

Modern Times: Man Seeks Woman
BBC2, 9.00pm

Taking its cue from the fact that there are a million more single men than women in Britain today, Susanna White's film mines the rich emotional vein of the lonely hearts column and profiles three unattached males who would prefer not to stay that way. The first is a lad whom Harry Enfield would be hard put to caricature. He is a double-glazer who drives flash cars, calls himself the Italian Stallion, and owns a crocodile G-string. The second is "no oil painting", drives a Reliant Robin and lives with his parents in a caravan. The third is a reasonable chap who just wants a mother for his two children. The men are articulate, the dates doomed and the programme full of pathos.

Ray Davies, maverick pop icon (BBC2, 11.20pm)

I'm Not Like Everybody Else: The World of Ray Davies and the Kinks
BBC2, 11.20pm

Ray Davies is responsible for some of the most enduring and quintessentially English pop songs ever written. He is the creative spirit behind *Waterloo Sunset, Autumn Almanac, Lola* and a host of other hits that encapsulate suburban life. Vanessa Engle's film is a brave attempt to pin that spirit down and she nearly gets away with it. Obsessively introspective and by nature a private man, Davies opens up about his music and his personality. He is not as forthcoming about other subjects. The sibling tension with Dave, the doldrums of the 1980s, the sexuality and the solo career are either ignored or sidestepped. Archive clips, excerpts from a recent solo acoustic gig and comments from the band give the tale added perspective.

Do Vampire Bats Have Friends?
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Yes, they do. They share food with other non-related individuals and therefore display altruism. But is this evidence of consciousness? Christopher Sykes's film addresses the emotive issue of whether animals possess consciousness as we know it or if they are merely soft automata — robots programmed to act by stored memory. There is fascinating footage of tests science has devised to show the extent of the animals' cognitive behaviour. But conclusive proof eludes the boffins. What is consciousness anyway? Is it self-awareness, the knowledge of one's own mortality or the process of logical thought? As one expert says, it is difficult enough to know what goes on in a human mind let alone that of animals.

Britannia
BBC1, 9.30pm

After 42 years of service the Royal Yacht *Britannia* is reaching the end of her seagoing life. It has been the Queen's floating palace and symbol of British grandeur since 1953 but is now regarded more as a museum piece. Filming during the Queen's state visit to South Africa in March this year, the makers were allowed access to every corner of the yacht from the steam-driven engine rooms to the state apartments. As the crew pad about in plimsolls to keep down the noise and preserve the wood flooring, the accent is on the endless preparations that go to making the stately ship fit for a Queen. The tone of the film is reverential, as if wishing to preserve the mystique of the vessel for future generations.

Frances Lass

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (8378372) **9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man** (r) (8465020) **9.50 Batman — The Animated Series** (s) (1053198) **10.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (7815943)

10.30 FILM: Christmas on Division Street (1991) A youth befriends a homeless man. Directed by George Kaczender (96939372)

12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (8316285)

12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2174223) **12.55 Home and Away** (Teletext) (2159914) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (44255049) **1.55 Shortland Street** (96976310) **2.20 Behind the Palace Walls. Royal Marriages** (r) (s) (18824391) **2.50 Material World** (5302846)

3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8680933) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) (8889204)

3.30 FILM: The Death of the Incredible Hulk (1990) starring and directed by Bill Bixby. (400371)

5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating. And Lenny Kravitz (2261204)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (750730)

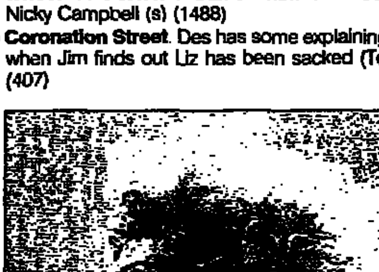
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (680488)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (643)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (223)

7.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show introduced by Nicky Campbell (s) (1488)

7.30 Coronation Street. Des has some explaining to do when Jim finds out Liz has been sacked (Teletext) (407)



Cher joins Des O'Connor (8.00pm)

8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. The amiable comedian and singer's guests include Cher, Eternal, Lily Savage and Joe Pasquale (s) (1339)

9.00 FILM: Look Who's Talking (1989) starring John Travolta. A single pregnant woman searches for the perfect husband and father for her unborn child. Directed by Amy Heckerling. **Continues after the news** (Teletext) (s) (1575)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (37285)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (243575)

10.40 Look Who's Talking (conclusion) (501846)

11.30 Magnum: Adelaide starring Tom Selleck as the laid back detective (72643)

12.30am The Little Picture Show. Wendy Lloyd reviews video and cinema releases, including Sylvester Stallone's *Judge Dredd*, and *Ace Ventura — When Nature Calls*(7179334)

1.35 It's Xmas, It's Number One. A film about the annual contest to be top of the charts at Christmas (the Beatles and Michael Jackson are the favourites this year), and the money now gambled on predicting who it will be (s) (9442150)

2.35 FILM: Afraid to Dance (1988). Australian comedy adventure. A teenager decides to leave the city for good after losing his job. Directed by Denny Lawrence (749686)

4.10 Coast to Coast. Documentary about a three-day triathlon across Scotland. (2756421)

5.00 Dead Men's Tales. Hanging by a Thread. Drama about two British climbers' attempt to conquer the Bonatti pillar in the French Alps (30063)

5.30 ITN Morning News (99179) Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Ulysses 31. Cartoon series (r) (1892469)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (12001)

9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class *(r)* (Teletext) *(8451827)* ***9.25 Babylon 5*** *(r) (Teletext) (s)* (3061339) **10.20 California Dreams** (r) (2662285)

10.45 Biker Mice From Mars (5831339) **11.10 Mork and Mindy** with Robin Williams (r) (7241865) **11.40 Dog City** (r) (s) (4436827) **12.00 Creepy Crawlers** (r) (s) (3930317) **12.20pm Heckle and Jeckle** (8314827)

12.30 Sesame Street with Andrea Martin (27049) **1.30 Super Dave** (r) (96971865) **1.50 Dr Seuss** (36017643)

2.20 FILM: The Ladykillers (1955) starring Alec Guinness as the sinister head of a gang of crooks whose perfect crime meets its nemesis at the unwitting hands of landlady Katie Johnson. Directed by Alexander Mackendrick (414285)

4.00 Think Tank with Mickey Hutton (Teletext) (s) (136)

4.30 Fifteen To One (Teletext) (s) (420)

5.00 Ricki Lake: How Do You Know He's Using Me? (Teletext) (7852952)

5.45 Terrytoons (757643)

6.00 The Crystal Maze *(r) (Teletext)* (s) (68643)

7.00 Channel 4 News including at 7.30 headlines and weather (241759)

7.55 Beastly Christmas: The X Mas Files. Building *workers dissect Picasso's The Crane (Teletext)* (570117)

8.00 Brookside. Merseyside drama series. (Teletext) (s) (8778)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Sharon and Ken Bowman take their three children to the Canaries; teenager Maria Duncan from the Shetland island of Burra takes off with eight friends for a fortnight in *Tenerife; and two single parents take their seven* children camping in France (Teletext) (7285)

Inside the mind of a hound dog (9.00pm)

9.00 Beastly Christmas: Do Vampire Bats Have Friends? (Teletext) (9117)

10.00 Northern Exposure: Una Volta in L'Inverno. Offbeat American comedy set in Alaska. (Teletext) (s) (502440)

10.55 The Dame Edna Christmas Experience. The housewife and superstar meets Roger Moore and Lulu. (Teletext) (6301914)

12.00 FILM: Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl (1982). John Cleese, Michael Palin, Eric Idle, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones and Graham Chapman took Los Angeles by storm back in 1982. Includes all the tried and trusted sketches, especially the story of the ailing parrot (40082)

1.30am Moviewatch (r) (s) (2609957)

2.05 FILM: My Learned Friend (1943) starring Will Hay, in his final film, as an incompetent lawyer who is pursued by a deranged forger (Mervyn Johns). Directed by Will Hay and Basil Dearden (6190044)

3.25 Rawhide: Incident of the Misplaced Indians (b/w) (r) (7325995)

4.20 The World of Hammer: The Lands Before Time. A look at the world and cities of the past and future created on the silver screen (93081150). Ends **4.50**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 10.30am Warner Cartoon (1657488) **10.40** Film: Journey Back to Oz (63260285) **12.55** Coronation Street (2159914) **1.25** Home and Away (44255049) **1.55** A Country Practice (96976310) **2.20** Highway to Heaven (18824391) **2.50-3.20** Gardening Time (5302846) **3.30** Film: Christmas on Division Street (400371) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2261204) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (223) *11.30 Midweek Kickoff (827391)* **12.35am** The War of the Worlds (8498286) **1.30** Entertainment Now (52131) **2.30** Film: The Night We Dropped a Clanger (2611841) **3.55** Music Box Profile (57491808) **4.10** The Little *Picture Show (2756421)*

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55-2.20 A Country Practice (96976310) **2.50-3.20** Make 'em Laugh (5302846) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2261204) *6.25-7.00 Central News and* Weather (661204) **11.30** Central Sports Special (72643) **4.10am** Jobfinder (2756421) **5.00** Asian Eye (30063)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2159914) **1.25** Home and Away (89111001) **1.50** Highway to Heaven (8764759) **2.50-3.20** Coronation Street (5302846) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2261204) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (661204) **11.30-12.30am** Granada Soccer Night (72643)

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.55-1.20 Shortland Street (5483285) **1.20** Coronation Street (44256778) **2.20** Simply Delicious (18824391) **2.50-3.20** Roadrunner (5302846) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2261204) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (223) **11.30** A Licence to Live (72643)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 2.50-3.20 The Really Helpful Programme (5302846) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (223) **11.30** Street Legal (72643)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 10.30 Warner Cartoon (1657488) **10.40-12.20** Film: Journey Back to Oz (63260285) **12.55** Coronation Street (2159914) **1.25** Home and Away (44255049) **1.55** A Country Practice (96976310) **2.20** High Road (18824391) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (5302846) **3.30** Film: Christmas on Division Street (400371) *5.10 Home and Away* (2261204) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - Freescreen (693952) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (643) **6.30-7.00** Put It To the Test (223) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather *(243575)* **11.30** The Meridian Match (827391) **12.35am** The War of the Worlds (8498286) **1.30** Entertainment Now (52131) **2.30** Film: The Night We Dropped a Clanger (2611841) **3.55** Music Box Profile (57491808) **4.10** The Little Picture Show (2756421) **5.00** Freescreen (30063)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 10.30 Cartoon Time (6366881) **10.35-12.20** Film: Protocol *(28289885)* ***12.55 Coronation Street*** (2159914) **1.25** Home and Away (44255049) **1.55** Murder, She Wrote (8772778) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (5302846) **3.30** Film: Christmas on Division Street (400371) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2261204) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (60001) **11.30** The Westcountry Match (72643)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 10.25am Calendar *News and Weather (5314681)* ***10.30 Cartoon*** Time (1657488) **10.40** Film: Journey Back to Oz (63260285) **12.55** Coronation Street (2159914) **1.25** Home and Away (44255049) **1.55** A Country Practice (96976310) **2.20** Yan Can Cook (18824391) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (5302846) **3.25** Yorkshire: Calendar News / Bilsdale: Network North (8889204) **3.30** Film: Christmas on Division Street (400371) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2261204) **5.55** Calendar / Network North *(949488)* ***6.30-7.00 Blockbusters*** *(223)* **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (243575) **11.30** Film: Rollerball (67886339) **1.40am** Gary Numan Live from London (8877421) **2.45** Film: No Road Back (738570) **4.20** Jobfinder (5824112)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (12001) **9.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class (8451827) **9.25** Babylon 5 (3061339) **10.20** California *Dreams (2662285)* ***10.45 Biker Mice From*** Mars (5831339) **11.10** Mork And Mindy *(7241865)* ***11.40 Dog City*** *r (4436827)* **12.00pm** 21st Century Jet: Special Delivery (79759) **1.00** Slot Meithrin (22488) **1.30** Film: The Man In The White Suit (86525488) **3.05** Terrytoons (8008010) **3.15** The Montel Williams Show (2892952) **4.00** Think Tank (136) **4.30** Dosh (420) **5.00** 5 Pump Rownd A Rownd (6271001) **5.15** 5 Pump: Fiell (3380643) **5.30** Fifteen To One (372) **6.00** *Newyddion (324310)* ***6.15 Heno*** *(391933)* **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (245759) **7.25** Dolig Dudley (944489) **8.00** 5 Comic Ar Drywydd Gwilia Gwyllt (8778) **8.30** Newyddion (7285) **9.00** Lleifior (9117) **10.00** Brookside (35827) *10.30 Northern Exposure (240223)* **11.25** Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball (493846) **12.30am** Secret Lives: Citizen Hughes (28353)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am DJ Kat (71952) **8.00** Power Rangers (91407) **8.30** Press Your Luck (90778) **9.00** Court TV (74730) **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (67730) **10.30** Concentration (70914) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (71778) **12.00** Jeopardy (94594) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (10020) **1.00** The Waltons (15575) **2.00** Geraldo (48952) **3.00** Court TV (5469) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (8373117) **4.20** Power Rangers (3499778) **4.40** Shoot! (5597662) **5.00** *Star Trek: The Next Generation (9049)* **6.00** The Simpsons (7933) **6.30** Jeopardy (8285) **7.00** LAPD (2038) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4469) **8.00** Earth 2 (52020) **9.00** Picket Fences (49556) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (42643) *11.00 Law and Order (52643)* **12.00** David Letterman (8975315) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6320286) **1.30** Rachel Gunn (21976) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix (7825957)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

6.00am Sunrise (9625681) **10.30** ABC Nightline (800001) **1.30pm** CBS News (44391) **2.30** CBS News (82730) **3.30** Destinations (42952) **5.00** Live at Five (56643) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (35469) **8.30** Newsmaker (568488) **11.30** CBS News (12846) **12.30am** ABC News (46773) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (18711) **2.30** Target (85518) **3.30** Destinations (80063) **4.30** CBS News (36605) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (15131)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (71575) **8.00 Barry Lyndon (1975)** (177285) **11.00 Surf Ninjas (1993)** (56136) ***12.30pm No Nukes (1980)*** (44918198) **2.15 The Perfectionist (1986)** (923932) **4.00 A Wedding on Walton's Mountain (1982)** (7681) **6.00 Surf Ninjas (1993)** (18846) **7.30 E! News Week in** ***Review*** *(2865)* **8.00 The Chase (1994)** (58204) **10.00 Lost in Yonkers (1993)** (25488) **12.00 Prelude to Love (1995)** (68402) **1.30am Mensonge (1992)** (16353) **3.00 A Walk with Love and Death (1969)** (81518) **4.30-6.00 The Perfectionist (1986)** (24980)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Roaring Twenties (1939) (9469) **6.00 Bundle of Joy (1956)** (51339) **8.00 This Property Is Condemned (1966)** (23556) **10.00 Raid on Entebbe (1976)** (704933) **12.30am The Lords of Discipline (1983)** (661792) **2.15-3.30 The Narrow Margin (1952)** (7948537)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Tokyo After Dark (1959) (79117) **8.00 Yabba-Dabba Doo Celebration** (37846) **10.00 Spider-Man: Night of the Clones/Escort of Danger (1978)** (29778) **12.00 The Scarlet Blade (1963)** (27469) **2.00pm Cagney and Lacey: The Return (1994)** (64865) **4.00 Yabba-Dabba Doo Celebration** (5223) **6.00 Whose Child Is** ***This? The War for Baby Jessica*** **(1993)** (44001) **8.00 Undercover Blues (1993)** (56846) **10.00 Blink (1993)** (16730) **12.00 Avalanche (1994)** (227112) **1.35am Mac (1992)** (661808) **3.35-5.00 Empty Cradle (1993)** (94350228)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Umbrella Tree (45211001) **6.30** Muppet Babies (33223440) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (36093198) **7.30** Ducktales (36005933) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (29468730) **8.30** Wonderland (29467001) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (29481681) **9.30** Pooh Corner (63206285) **10.00** Dumbo's Circus (33247020) **10.30** *Quack Attack (29487865)* ***11.00 Walt Disney*** Presents (36014881) **12.00** FILM: In the Nick of Time (82903488) **1.35pm** Admiral and the Princess (83409049) **2.00** Wonderland (70034391) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62039049) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70020198) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (62034594) **4.00** Quack Attack (62013001) **4.30** Ducktales (62018285) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (70025643) **5.30** Danger Bay (62033865) **6.00** Tarzan (62030778) **6.30** Dinosaurs (62014730) **7.00** Flipper (68196865) **8.00** The Sinbad Show (70021827) **8.30** The Torkelsons (70033662) **9.00-10.00** Voyager (68192049)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Alpine Skiing (55372) **8.30** Athletics (89631) **9.30** Motors (12204) **10.30** Live Alpine Skiing (10662) **12.00** Euroski (14933) **12.30pm** Equestrianism (90594) **1.30** Basketball (22440) **2.00** Motorsport (5488) **2.30** Snooker (19933) **4.30** Football (80310) **5.30** Alpine Skiing (79778) **6.30** Eurosport News (7339) **7.00** Prime Time Boxing Special (55074) **8.00** Aerobics (87730) **10.00** Chess (98765) **11.00** Equestrianism (90827) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (56402)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (29339) **7.30** Racing News (60468) **8.00** Wrestling Mania (18407) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (38371) **9.30** Ski Sailing (34285) **10.00** Boots 'n' All (97730) **11.00** Sports Unlimited (17594) **12.00** Aerobics (29665) **12.30pm** Scottish Football: Motherwell v Rangers (29469) **2.30** Pub Quiz (8402) **3.00** Boots (60575) **4.00** Sports Unlimited (72310) **5.00** Wrestling Superstars (3407) **6.00** Sports Centre (1391) **6.30** Rugby (2643) **7.00** Basketball (13967353) **9.25** Sports Centre (585575) **9.30** Soccer Magazine (58865) **10.00** Sports Centre (20594) *10.30 Rugby (88894) 11.00 Drag* Racing (10889) **12.00** Basketball (476957) **2.30-3.00am** Centre (58063)

Mercedes Ruehl in Lost in Yonkers **(Sky Movies, 10pm)**

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Rugby Hall of Fame (2887575) **10.30** World Cup Classics: West Germany v Yugoslavia 1990 (4527339) **12.00** Blood Sweat and Glory (3286315) **12.30-1.00am** Second Innings: Ian Botham (8273334)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (1180759) **11.30** Video Trips (1181488) **12.00** Italy (2886846) **12.30pm** Pierre Franey (2159933) **1.00** Around the World (6971092) **1.30** Guide (2156204) **2.00** Ski (4182223) **2.30** Discover Your World (2858594) **3.00** Getaway (4161730) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (2860339)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Our Century (1104339) **5.00** Memories 1972 (4185310) **6.00-7.00** Biography — The Fergie Story (2167952)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Inside Space (4193339) **7.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (2846759) **8.00** FILM: War of the Worlds (8293198) **9.30-10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (2146469) **1.00am** Inside Space (1296421) **1.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (8525518) *2.00 FILM: War of the Worlds (3736179)* **3.30-4.00** Alfred Hitchcock (7936889)

TLC

9.00am Martha Stewart (9923339) **9.30** Delicious (1832020) **10.00** Heart of the Country (6193020) **10.30** He's My Brother (9912223) **11.00** Only Human (1438391) **12.00** No Place Like Home (9903575) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (1843136) **1.00** Delicious (1449407) **1.30** Martha Stewart (1842407) **2.00** Forty Something (6101049) **3.00** Country **3.30-4.00** Fishing (8475339)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1442594) **7.30** Neighbours (1421001) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9902846) **8.30** EastEnders (9901117) **9.00** The Bill (9992489) **9.30** The Sullivans (1841778) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1427285) **11.00** Dallas (1447049) **12.00** Sons and Daughters **12.30pm** Neighbours (1845594) **1.00** EastEnders (1441865) **1.30** The Bill (1844865) **2.00** The Sullivans (32094907) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3932049) **3.00** Angels (7838407) **3.30** Eldorado **4.00** Miss Marple (95779198) **5.05** Generation Game (41096488) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (6228204) **6.25** EastEnders (2871952) **7.00** Eldorado (7820488) **7.30** Taxi (8453117) **8.00** FILM: Please Sir (5261204) **10.00** The Bill (6026865) **10.35** Top of the Pops (2382914) **11.15** Special Branch (8008407) **12.15am** Dr Who (8938605) **12.45** Public Eye (1074889) **1.45** Triangle (8926860) **2.15** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Animated Classic Showcase (5841925) **6.45** Tiny (1678575) **7.00** Barney (45852) **7.30** Happily Ever After (31759) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (53846) **8.30** Eek (52117) **9.00** Garfield (43469) **9.30** Where's Wally? (94681) **10.00** Skeleton Warriors (57402) **10.30** Battletech (65681) **11.00** AJ's Time Travellers (92198) **11.30** The Babysitters' Club (93827) **12.00** Art Attack (9823533) **12.15pm** Dish of the Day (4106662) **12.30** No Naked Flames (72469) **1.00** Heartbreak High (93952) *2.00 The Tick (5020)* **2.30** Ready or Not (2662) **3.00** Sweet Valley High (1827) **3.30** Hang Time (4407) **4.00** California (3914) **4.30-5.00** Madison (9198)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Blue (59117) **6.30** Count Duckula (67001) **7.00** Bafflink (1435846) **7.05** Hero Turtles (3466285) **7.45** Rugrats (686310) **8.15** Doug (755914) **8.45** Rocko's Modern Life (5271865) **9.00** Alvin (38353) **9.30** Pee-Wee (32827) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (95372) **11.00** Children's BBC (15136) **12.00** Rocko (27407) **12.30pm** Real Monsters (36543) **1.00** Ship to Shore (19952) **1.30** *Mighty Max (35914)* ***2.00 Speed Racer*** (1662) **2.30** Galaxy High School (8204) **3.00** Count Duckula (7469) **3.30** Littlest Pet Shop (3579) **4.00** Hero Turtles (9556) **4.30** Rugrats (8440) **5.00** Clarissa (2914) **5.30** Wishbone (2020) **6.00** Doug (9933) **6.30** Are You Afraid? (3335) **7.00** Ferris Bueller (2778) **7.30-8.00** Sister Sister (6469)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Driving Passions (8454846) **4.30** National Geographic (8443730) **5.00** Lonely Planet (7810001) **6.00** Invention (8464223) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1382001) **7.30** Savannah Cats (3376399) **8.30** Top Marques (7816285) **9.00** *Seawings (5278594)* **10.00** *Revelation (5271681)* ***11.00 Voyager*** (1894372) **11.30-12.00** Nature Watch

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Captain's Paradise *(6100310)* **2.00pm** The Saint (6198575) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7823575) **3.30** Man from Interpol (8462865) **4.00** FILM: Dr Crippen (7827391) **6.00** Death Valley Days (8488049) **6.30** The Critic (8442001) **7.00** The Critic (7815556) **7.30** The Protectors (8448285) **8.00** The Saint (5252556) **9.00** Sapphire and Steel (1819681) **9.30** Dead at 21 (1827198) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Black Joy (1800933)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony (7261407) **7.00** Magazine (6079049) **9.00** Bazaar (2964204) **9.30** Kate and Allie (5067556) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (5889662) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (3835372) **11.55** Delia Smith *(6988204)* ***12.30pm Brookside*** *(5410594)* **1.05** Kilroy (1956001) **2.00** Agony Hour (4941865) **3.00** Magazine (4898469) **4.00** Infatuation UK (8337198) **4.30** Crosswits (7474662) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (59288730) **5.30** Bewitched (8340662) **6.00** Esther (8347575) **6.30** Brookside (6732407) **7.05** Infatuation UK (7856961) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (6978876) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (4247469) **9.00** Cagney and Lacey (4250933) **10.00** Charlie's Angels (4253020) **11.00-12.00** Love Life (6059285)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm The Wonder Years (6372) **5.30** Tintin (3778) **6.00** Batman (3391) **6.30** *Catchphrase (4643)* **7.00** A Word in Your Ear (6136) **7.30** The Fall Guy (77020) **8.30** Duty Free (4391) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries (45778) **10.00** All Clued Up (57662) **10.30** Neon Rider (26136) **11.30** Batman (57466) **12.00** The Fall Guy (43599) **1.00am** Zorro (82537) **1.30** Rhoda (85112) **2.00** Neon Rider (19841) **3.00** Rhoda (62773) **3.30** Zorro (30709) **4.00** The Wonder Years (82044) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (634021)

MTV

6.30am The Grind (87440) **7.00** 3 from 1 (8247049) **7.15** Awake (4870310) **8.00** Music Videos (304117) **10.30** Rockumentary *(74339)* ***11.00 Soul*** *(42865)* ***12.00 Hits*** (86562) **1.00pm** Non-Stop (16810169) **2.45** 3 from 1 (3540223) **3.00** Cinematic **3.15** Hanging Out (7006049) **4.00** News **4.15** Hanging Out (2356440) **4.30** Dial MTV (1556) **5.00** Zig (8730) **5.30** Hanging Out (80264) **7.00** Take That (41952) **8.00** Inside Unplugged (4914) **8.30** Unplugged with Hole (54204) **9.30** Beavis (87391) **10.00** News (338914) **10.15** Cinematic **10.30** The Stale (35440) **11.00** *The End?* (18117) ***12.30am Videos*** *(9610976)*

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (7321533) **9.00** Café (1038865) **12.00** Heart and Soul *(2147198)* ***1.00pm Vinyl*** *(2156846)* **2.00** Youssou N'Dour (9011440) **3.00** Into the Music (4263466) **6.00** VH-1-2-3: Mariah Carey (2169310) **7.00** VH-1 for You (6367285) **8.00** Review (4171117) **8.30** Rod Stewart (4183952) **9.00** Youssou N'Dour (6363469) **10.00** Vinyl (6366556) **11.00** Tommy Vance (8530440) **1.00am** John Mayall (1326131) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

ZEE TV

7.00am Asian Morning (87879285) **9.30** Hindi Serial (86096778) **10.30** Namaste India (12347074) **11.00** Tera (84875223) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh (28642466) **12.30pm** Hit Th Hit Hai (62179662) **1.00** Urdu FILM (25165778) **4.00** Zee Presents (44202846) **5.00** Zee Zone (59393556) **5.30** Bengali Serial (21308020) **6.00** Campus (21305933) **6.30** Zee and U (21396285) **7.00** Aap Ki Adalat (59306020) **7.30** Film Deewane (21392489) **8.00** News (59382440) **8.30** Banegi Apni Baat (59301575) **9.00-12.00** Hindi FILM Naam (57089943)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Cartoons from 5am to 8pm; TNT films.

7.00pm The Teahouse of the August **Moon (1956)** (36004204) **9.00 Pat and Mike (1952)** (68173914) **11.00 Night of the Lepus (1972)** (16620020) **12.35am The Case of the Howling Dog (1934)** *(28350711)* ***2.00 The Case of the Curious*** **Bride (1935)** (85795678) **3.30-5.00 The Case of the Lucky Legs (1935)** (30416044)

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Malcolm stays on sidelines

Fraser surplus to England's requirements

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, in Durban

JASON GALLIAN, England's emergency batting recruit, completed a tortuous, 30-hour journey here from Pakistan yesterday and was given rather less time to recover before starting a three-day match against a South African Tertiary XI in Pietermaritzburg this morning. The more significant aspect of the team selection, however, was the continued exclusion of Angus Fraser, which must now raise serious doubts about his future at Test level.

By once again naming Peter Martin and Mark Ilott, ahead of Fraser and Devon Malcolm, the England selectors have effectively ruled out changing the seam attack for the fourth Test, that starts in Port Elizabeth on Tuesday. Indeed, as the final Test follows immediately, neither of the experienced pair is likely to feature again in the series.

The omission of Malcolm is no surprise, as the pitches for the two remaining Tests are forecast to be slow, but Fraser will be stung by the pointed way that he has been shelved, for it had widely been assumed that he would complete the series as the solid pivot of the England attack.

It is no secret that Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, has never applied for membership of Fraser's fan club and views much of his recent bowling as bland; but Illingworth's indifference has often been successfully countered by the desire of Michael Atherton, the captain, to have Fraser's dependability at his disposal. Now, it seems, even that support has been withdrawn.

Although Illingworth is technically the sole tour selector, in practice, he habitually consults his captain. On the first morning of the Durban Test, last Thursday, Atherton himself proposed the adventurous shift to a novice attack featuring the swing of Martin and Ilott. Illingworth, who had mentally formulated the same combination, cheerfully agreed.

An hour into the match, the selection was looking less than inspired, but Martin finished with four wickets and Ilott three, both ultimately bowling well enough to convince Atherton and Illingworth that they should be retained.

Gallian: into the fray

As one who needs, more than most, to bowl himself into form, there can be no way back for Fraser on this tour. He bowled limply in the first innings of the Johannesburg Test, three weeks ago, and, despite improving substantially as the game progressed, he has played no first-class cricket since. A splendid servant to England, either side of his career-threatening pelvic injury, his stabilising role in the side seems increasingly likely to pass to Martin, three years his junior and still improving.

The one member of the third-Test attack left out today is Dominic Cork, but, although he finished wicketless in the South Africa innings, nothing should be read into this apart from the sensible wish to conserve the energies of the best, and thus most overworked, of England's bowlers. Mike Watkinson deputises, with Illingworth explaining that there may yet be cause to play two spin bowlers in Port Elizabeth or Cape Town.

This policy, dear to the manager's heart, is improbable because of the unreliable nature of the England batting. Only Atherton and Graeme Hick have reached 60 in this series and, although both went on to make big centuries, the persistence with which Alec Stewart, Robin Smith and Graham Thorpe are missing out is causing concern.

Gallian has been summoned to provide the "stodge", as Atherton calls it, and this personable young man was smiling broadly on arrival, despite his arduous journey. He will bat in the top three today, though England did not confirm that he will open.

After a chastening start to his Test career, when he had his finger broken on his debut at Edgbaston and returned a month later only to be out without scoring at the Oval, Gallian was not surprised to be omitted from the senior tour. "The chairman said they had picked the seven best batsmen and I think he was correct," he said disarmingly.

However, after an outstanding A-team tour, including 156 in the second five-day international in Rawalpindi, he has earned another chance. "It is a great Christmas present," he said, "but I must just be patient and, wherever I bat, set my own agenda and play my own way."

Remarkably, he may start today, for, after three days, four nights and an alert for troops to deal with flood chaos, it stopped raining here yesterday, allowing the resumption of Durban's beach culture and, just maybe, the resumption of cricket.

Place in the sun, page 38

VINCENZO PINTO

Alberto Tomba, of Italy, powers to his first victory in a World Cup race this season in Madonna di Campiglio yesterday. Report, page 37

Uefa in conflict over limit on foreigners

By David Maddock and Russell Kempson

THE Premier League and Uefa, football's European governing body, are on a collision course with the European Union over the legality of the three-foreign-player restriction. The Premiership's legal advisers meet on Friday to determine whether the existing rule — restricting clubs in Uefa competitions to naming three players from outside the British Isles in their 14-man squads — has any legal foundation.

However, in the wake of the Jean-Marc Bosman ruling in the European Court of Justice last week, Uefa and the EU's 15 national football associations have been warned that they will be flouting European law if they attempt to uphold the quota system.

Padraig Flynn, the EU social affairs commissioner, said: "From now on, nationality restrictions are illegal in European-level club competitions. I expect those affected to take the necessary steps to change their rules." Last night, though, the Premier League insisted that it would be taking no such step until legal advice has been sought.

Uefa has adopted an even more determined stance. It has said that it will ignore the court ruling and insists that it will not change the rules of its 49-member federation because of a court decision in the 15-member EU.

Another 24 hours of rumour and counter-rumour, with few facts but plenty of fiction, ended yesterday with the managerial soap opera of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division no nearer its concluding episode. For followers of Luton Town, the issue appears straightforward. Terry Westley was pushed before he could jump and left Kenilworth Road "by mutual consent" on Monday. David Kohler, the Luton chairman, has since spoken with Mike Walker, the former Everton and Norwich City manager, and Lennie Lawrence, formerly of Bradford City, Charlton Athletic and Middlesbrough.

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"They are both good men and we were impressed with them," Kohler said, "but we have two or three other names in the ring and we will not be rushing into any decision."

Walker had been hoping to take over at Leicester City at the weekend as he was interviewed by Martin George, the Leicester chairman, on Friday. However, the availability of Martin O'Neill, who resigned as manager of Norwich on Sunday, has thrown a spanner in the works.

It appears, though, that Walker may have to bank on Luton providing him with a return to management after 13 months out of the game. Talks between O'Neill and Norwich broke down, without any change of heart by the Irishman, and it is now believed that Leicester and Norwich are discussing terms of compensation for O'Neill.

Leicester negotiated a reported £750,000 in compensation from Wolverhampton Wanderers, after Mark McGhee resigned two weeks ago and resurfaced at Molineux. Part of it could be used to smooth O'Neill's departure from Carrow Road.

That would still leave the question of who takes his place. Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager and former assistant manager at Norwich, has been mentioned, as has Osvaldo Ardiles.

Howard Kendall yesterday made his first signing as Sheffield United manager when he agreed to pay Manchester City £350,000 for Michel Vonk, the Holland defender.

Arthur Jorge, formerly the coach of Portugal, has been appointed to replace Roy Hodgson as manager of Switzerland. Hodgson, who led Switzerland to the finals of the 1994 World Cup and the 1996 European championship, now coaches Internazionale.

Saracens optimistic of securing Sella

By David Hands
Rugby correspondent

SARACENS, the recently-incorporated north London rugby union club, are cautiously optimistic that Philippe Sella will make himself available for them next season. Were those hopes to be borne out, it would be a tremendous boost to a club that has always lived in the shadow of Harlequins and Wasps.

Sella, 33, announced last night his intention of playing no more international rugby, the last of his 110 caps for France having come against England in June in the play-off for third place in the World Cup. A season in London would, however, increase the business contacts that Sella seeks, and although Leicester seek to take him to Welford Road, they believe that he will stay in the capital.

"We are interested in any quality player, especially of Sella's type," Bruce Millar, a Saracens spokesman, said. In other business trips to England, Sella has given time to coaching at a couple of junior clubs and, were he to commit himself to a first division club, they could reasonably be assured of his best efforts.

"If we are really going to the marketplace to find exciting people in the backs, then the place to look is France and Australia," Millar said.

The advantage for a Frenchman is that, moving from an EC country requires only a seven-day qualification period. There has been speculation in Italy that Michael Lynagh, the former Australia stand-off half, now with Treviso, has been offered a contract by an English club, but Lynagh would have to serve a 180-day qualification.

Scots take their hats off to tradition

David Rhys Jones on the change of heart affecting women bowlers' heads

A MILWAUKEE Brewers baseball cap has proved to be a hat too far for the women bowlers of Scotland. The cap was just one of many outlandish forms of headgear that created a furore on the greens last summer, prompting women bowlers north of the border to perform an unexpected volte-face in Edinburgh last week.

Scotland's women bowlers, who, two years ago, voted to end more than 70 years of tradition and go hatless, have now voted to put their hats back on, at least for their national championships. As one convert put it: "The variety of horrendous headgear at Ayr during the summer had to be seen to be believed."

The historic decision, made at the annual meeting of the Scottish Women's Bowling Association (SWBA) two years ago, preceded a dispensation for the British Isles championships and home international series at Llandrindod Wells in 1993, when all competitors — except most of the conservative English team — gratefully went bareheaded. The English Women's Bowling Association, in spite of the relaxations elsewhere, still prefers that hats are worn at all competitions.

Since women formed their national associations in the 1920s, hats have been part of the uniform, not only on the green, but also on the way to the match, and in the clubhouse, too. Gloves, and tights, of the correct denier, of course, are also expected, nay required.

A stubborn refusal to bring the uniform (designed *circa* 1926) up-to-date has, critics say, stunted the growth of the women's game. The average age of competitors in the men's championships has plummeted in recent years, but comparatively few young women are prepared to submit themselves to the hats-tights-gloves routine.

Grass-roots bowlers, forced to wear tights on a hot summer's day, or a hat in a high wind, often grumble among themselves, but the decisions are made at a higher level, where "*standards*" and "traditional values" hold sway.

By the time that players have reached international status, they must have grown used to dressing in what amounts to period costume, including the cloche-style hats, with hatbands always worn with the bow on the left-hand side. Even if they would like to throw caution — and the hats — to the winds, they must think twice, because dissent would threaten their international careers.

When Eleanor Allan, the SWBA secretary, announced in Edinburgh two years ago that hats would no longer have to be worn during the Scottish championships, spontaneous cheers raised the roof.

"Everyone was thrilled," Allan said, "but this summer, things went wrong at Ayr because it was so hot. People started covering their heads with anything they could lay their hands on and the result was unbelievable. You name it, they wore it. Our flagship event looked a mess."

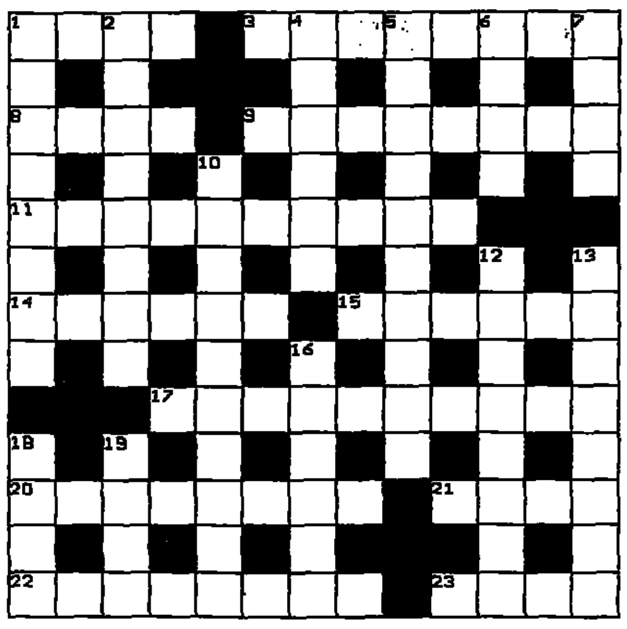
At the annual meeting in Freemasons' Hall, chaired by the aptly-named June Bowler, the SWBA treasurer, the council intended to float the idea of keeping hats an optional item, but adding a "hats-if-worn-must-be-regulation" ruling. The floor disagreed.

The motion making hats compulsory again in the Scottish championships was passed overwhelmingly, but Allan has confirmed that the ruling will not affect the British championships at Leamington Spa in June, when players of all four home countries will be allowed to let their hair down — if so inclined.

The conventional cloche, vulnerable to high winds, but back in favour

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 657



ACROSS
1 Horse's ankle; a wine (4)
3 Storage recess; its love selfish (8)
8 Dark gloom (4)
9 Repugnantly disgusting (8)
11 Band together against outsider (5,5)
14 Storage container; cheque writer (6)
15 The weaver *(MND)* (6)
17 Profound contemplation (5,5)
20 Annoying thing (8)
21 Monstrous giant (4)
22 Space between arch curve and mouldings (8)
23 Gas, used for light (4)

DOWN
1 A killing (8)
2 NCO; of the body (8)
4 Pandemonium (6)
5 Jarndyce novel *(Dickens)* (5,5)
6 County; river; Eden its earl (4)
7 Act; legal document (4)
10 Had fun; famous (10)
12 Hard contest (8)
13 (Highest) heaven (poet.) (8)
16 Sudden slight pain (6)
18 Prejudice (4)
19 Operatic solo number (4)

SOLUTION TO No 656
ACROSS: 1 Vanity Fair 7 Algebra 8 Amiss 10 Bandeau 11 Clove 12 Prompt 15 Persia 17 Mafia 18 Ashamed 21 Yacht 22 Revises 23 Brass tacks

DOWN: 1 Vegan 2 Noble 3 Teacup 4 Fiancée 5 In irons 6 Namby-pamby 9 Stewardess 13 Officer 14 Plautus 16 Garret 19 Havoc 20 Moses

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 652
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Child's play 8 Ancient 9 Scene 10 Poll 11 Con trick 13 House 14 Alive 16 Clavicle 17 Maim 20 Baloo 21 Queries 22 Unrequited

DOWN: 1 Clamp 2 Incalculable 3 Dyed 4 Pathos 5 Alsatian 6 Semifinalist 7 Heckle 12 Demijohn 13 Hecuba 15 Clique 18 Mused 19 Peru

THE NAMES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE-WINNERS IN THE TIMES TWO CROSSWORD COMPETITION NO 652 WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW.

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